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INOS, SABLAN URGES DHS

'Extend NMI'S asylum exemption'

» Napolitano thanked for continued visa waiver for Chinese, Russian tourists
» Tighter CBP watch against 'US birth tourism'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) jointly asked U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano yesterday to extend the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applications beyond Jan. 1, 2014, to deter tourists from claiming asylum when they are admitted to the islands under the visa waiver program.

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NEW KAGMAN HEALTH CENTER HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, fourth from right, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, third from right, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), third from left, and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, center, join CHC officials and lawmakers in a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the opening of a new Kagman Community Health Center Friday morning. This Kagman center is touted to be a primary care facility that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. To make an appointment or for more information, call 256-5242 (KCHC) or visit www.kagmanchc.org.

New proposal for 99-year public land leases

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A new proposal to amend the CNMI Constitution's Article 11 was pre-filed yesterday afternoon, increasing the maximum term of public land leases in the CNMI from the current 40 years to 99 years.

If House Legislative Initiative 18-5 passes the House and Senate, it will be placed on the ballot for voters' ratification in the 2014 general election.

The initiative's main author is House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan). As of yesterday's pre-filing, it has nine co-sponsors.

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Japan increasingly nervous about NKorea nukes

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)— It's easy to write off North Korean threats to strike the United States with a nuclear-tipped missile as bluster: it has never demonstrated the capability to deploy a missile that could reach the Pacific island of Guam let alone the mainland U.S.

But what about Japan?

Though it remains a highly unlikely scenario, Japanese officials have long feared that if North Korea ever decides to play its nuclear card it has not only the means but several potential motives for launching an attack on Tokyo or major U.S. military installations on Japan's main

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Local

7 school teams, over 50 students in junior mock trial this year

Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, center, is flanked by team members of the Mount Carmel School and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School after Saturday's mock trial in Susupe Court. MONETH G. DEPOSA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Presiding judges in this year's non-competitive Junior Mock Trial commended young performers for their outstanding display of knowledge about the CNMI's judicial system and procedures during rigorous rounds Saturday at the Guma Hustisia.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho said he has high hopes for the rise of more lawyers and judges for the islands, based on the growth of interest he has seen in participating students since the junior mock trial began many years ago.

Camacho, who has been a supporter of the program since its inception, said that a large number of students involved in the mock trial program during high school later went on to law schools to further their education.

Last Saturday, he asked the schools' continued support for the program, which allows students to understand the role of attorneys and witnesses in the courtroom.

Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, right, with selected students from the teams of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja and Grace Christian Academy on Rota who were recognized for their impressive performances during Saturday's mock trial event. MONETH G. DEPOSA

According to Eulalia Villagomez, Northern Marianas Humanities Council program officer, over 50 students from seven school teams joined this year's event. This is an increase over last year's five school participants.

For the first time, the program managed to bring in one team from Tinian and three teams from Rota, Villagomez said. These were the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, Rota's Grace Christian Academy, Rota's Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr/Sr. High School, and Rota's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja. The team of Chacha Oceanview Junior High School was also first timer to the program.

Other school teams this year were Saipan's Mount Carmel School and Hopwood Junior High School.

"I am really impressed with the turnout. We have seen a lot of improvements from our students. This is also the first time we have two levels, three different courtrooms, [and] three different judges presiding over the rounds," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides Camacho, also presiding over other rounds on Saturday was Chief Justice Alexandro Castro who recognized the teams of MCS and GCA-Rota for a job well done. He praised the confidence demonstrated by the students, who appeared well-rehearsed for their pieces.

He particularly highlighted the performance of MCS freshmen Michael Ortizo, whom he described as a natural-born witness.

"At first, I really thought it was for winning but at the end…it's really just to have fun!" Ortizo told *Saipan Tribune*, describing the justice's commendation as a "great honor."

Ortizo's team has been preparing for the junior mock trial since December.

Sixth grader Daniel Sasakura of the GCA-Rota team that battled against the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja team before Camacho's sala was also singled out for praise.

"I really had a good time today and I was touched when the judge commended me. This is really fun and a good learning experience for me!" said Sasakura.

Also seen presiding over the rounds between Hopwood Junior High School and Tinian Jr./Sr. High School was Associate Justice John Manglona.

Compared to the high school division, the junior high level uses a non-competitive format so there are no winners or losers per se. The judge gives general comments on the teams' work and performances.

The program, which is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Council of Humanities, is a pilot project that aims to get students involved in humanities.

The defense team of Grace Christian Academy on Rota poses for a photo after the competition Saturday where they battled against the team of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja. MONETH G. DEPOSA

FBI steps into case of woman set on fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has stepped into the investigation of a woman who was set on fire just as she was about to enter her car in a store's parking lot in San Antonio.

Replying to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry last week, FBI spokesman special agent Tom Simon said the FBI has been working closely with the Department of Public Safety's police to gain an understanding of the incident that injured the local resident.

"While the matter is still under investigation and no charges have been filed, we can say with extreme confidence that this alleged attack was an isolated incident and there is no threat or danger to the greater public," said Simon in an email.

He said the FBI can't comment on this incident any further unless or until charges are filed.

"The FBI's working relationship with the Saipan DPS police remains a model in law enforcement cooperation, and we look forward to collaborating on further investigations into the future," Simon said.

The incident happened on March 26 at night, when an unidentified man walked up to a woman just as she was about to enter her car in the parking lot of San Antonio Supermarket, doused her with flammable fluid, and set her on fire.

Employees of the store extinguished the fire on the woman as well as on her vehicle.

The 48-year-old woman was admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center for second-degree burns on both hands and her entire back.

As of yesterday, the suspect, described as an Asian, has yet to be arrested.

Regents ready to act on Hart's employment contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the Board of Regents are set to act on the employment contract of Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., whose fate—whether her contract will be renewed or not—will be known today.

Hart

Hart's two-year contract is expiring on July 4.

The board's intention to decide on this issue is aligned with the college's desire to rectify all concerns and deficiencies identified by the accreditation commission before Oct. 15 this year when its show-cause and closure reports are due for submission.

The "instability" of the leadership at the college, along with the lack of a permanent chief financial officer, was among the key issues cited by the commission. Yesterday, Hart announced the hiring of Tracy Guerrero as the college's new CFO and she will begin work next month.

The board has already evaluated the president's performance. In an earlier interview with Andrew Orsini, who chairs the committee to evaluate the president, he disclosed that this process has been completed but has yet to be formally presented to the board.

Orsini, during the same interview, pointed out that this evaluation on the president's performance will have no bearing on the decision to be made by the board today. The evaluation covered the period of October 2011 through October 2012.

Meantime, the Faculty Senate recently completed a survey on college effectiveness, called Faculty Climate Survey. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the survey forms were distributed to faculty members, but were also made available to both the staff and students to use if they wish.

The results from the faculty survey have been compiled and will be discussed with members in a yet-to-be scheduled assembly.

Based on the results of the survey, it indicates that 77 percent of the 26 responding faculty feel that the college's policies and procedures are not being followed fairly and uniformly, with 81 percent feeling that the entire college does not have adequate input in the budgeting process.

Additionally, 69 percent responded that the president has not demonstrated the ability to successfully obtain re-accreditation, while 62 percent feel that Hart does not demonstrate commitment to the college and the community it serves.

Meantime, press secretary Angel A. Demapan confirmed yesterday that Gov. Eloy S. Inos plans to meet with the Board of Regents to get an update on current issues at the college.

On allegations that a petition may reach the governor's desk regarding several issues about the college and its board, Demapan said these will be reviewed and he assures that fair and due process is afforded to all the parties involved before rendering a decision.

Guerrero is NMC's new CFO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has finally addressed one of the major concerns raised by the accreditation commission when it confirmed yesterday the hiring of a new chief financial officer.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D, announced yesterday the appointment of Tracy M. Guerrero as the college's new CFO. She will begin work middle of next month.

As the new chief financial officer, Guerrero will be the primary financial manager of the college and will share responsibility with Hart and other college administrators for the management and safeguarding of NMC's assets.

She will report directly to the president and will oversee the college's Finance Office, Budget Officer and Office, Auxiliary Services such as the NMC Bookstore, and the Procurement and Property Management Office. Guerrero will also oversee college investments, help enhance audit processes, and monitor internal control measures.

Hart described Guerrero's background as both extensive and impressive.

Guerrero earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and her master's degree in business administration from California State University.

"Tracy's extensive and impressive leadership and financial background makes her a great fit for her new position at the college. Her prior success at the CNMI Judiciary will play a pivotal role in the growth of the college and its mission to help improve the lives of CNMI residents through higher education," said Hart.

The CFO position was one of the posts highlighted in the show-cause letter from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

"We wanted to move quickly to address the recommendations by ACCJC, so we ensured that the recruitment process for key positions at the college, including the CFO, was prioritized," said Hart.

Prior to accepting her new job at NMC, Guerrero worked as the Director of Courts for the CNMI Judiciary, where she had overall responsibility for the administrative management of the courts, including supervising the functions of budget and finance, human resources, information and technology, public information, court security, grant management, and facilities management. In this capacity, Guerrero also ensured that court operations and judicial administrative needs were identified, evaluated, and incorporated into long- and short-term plans. She also represented the Judiciary before the legislative and executive branches of the CNMI government, the CNMI Bar Association, and other public and private organizations.

Guerrero also worked as a senior analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office, where she planned and executed analyses of budgetary documents, contracts, reports, briefings, laws and legislation, strategic plans, and other documents on multiple performance audit engagements. She also recommended measures to the U.S. Congress resulting in over $1 billion in savings to the U.S. government.

Miah faces trial in new criminal case

Mohammad Jahangir Miah will be in Superior Court again next week to face a bench trial in another criminal case filed against him by the Office of the Attorney General.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set Miah's bench trial for Monday, April 15, at 9am.

Chief prosecutor Peter Prestley charged Miah with one count of receiving stolen property and four counts of criminal contempt.

Prestley alleged that, on Oct. 3, 2012, on Saipan, Miah received a stolen wristwatch.

Prestley said that Miah failed to comply with the bail modification orders issued by the Superior Court in his four other criminal cases.

Attorney Colin Thompson is counsel for Miah.

Last month, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Miah to 21 months in prison for the production of fraudulent CNMI driver's licenses. He was given credit for time served.

In July 2012, Miah was acquitted in a case of conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks due to lack of corroborating evidence.

Last January, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo dismissed another case charging Miah with receiving stolen property and violating the terms of release in other cases.

In October 2012, another case charging Miah with receiving stolen items belonging to William S. Reyes Elementary School was also dismissed. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-cop gets time-served sentence for use of excessive force

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday imposed a sentence of two and a half days time-served on former police officer Frankie Sablan Pangelinan, who sprayed pepper spray on the face of a security guard.

Manglona placed Pangelinan on three years of supervised release and required him to perform 100 hours of community service. He was also ordered to serve six more months of house arrest on top of the eight months of house arrest he has already completed.

He was also required to pay a $100 court assessment fee.

"Appreciate this second opportunity, Mr. Pangelinan," Manglona told the defendant.

The judge noted that Pangelinan has also been found positive for use of "ice." She expressed hope that, with the support shown by his family, Pangelinan will overcome his drug dependency.

"I hope I will not see you again in court later for probation violation," Manglona said.

Pangelinan pleaded guilty in January 2012 to one count of deprivation of rights under color of law as part of a plea agreement. The remaining charges—deprivation of rights under color of law (false arrest) and deprivation of rights under color of law—were dropped.

Yesterday, Pangelinan asked the court for leniency and apologized to the victim, Felipe Kalen, who was in the gallery. Pangelinan acknowledged that he exceeded the force needed to deal with an ongoing argument at that time.

Asked by Manglona whether he is satisfied with the apology, Kalen stated that he forgives the former police officer.

Pangelinan said his actions betrayed the public's trust and brought shame on him, his family, and the Department of Public Safety.

"I take full responsibility for my actions," he added.

Pangelinan said he again betrayed the public's trust and brought shame to his family and DPS when he was tested positive for "ice" use.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for Pangelinan, said that his client's sentence achieves the ends of justice and is appropriate.

TO INCREASE REMITTANCES TO RETIREMENT FUND

Budget cuts, RIF to reduce government spending

The House Committee on Cost-Cutting chaired by Rep. Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan) will be meeting today to brainstorm on how to lower government spending and increase remittances to the NMI Retirement Fund from the current $10 million to up to $20 million. Yumul's proposals include an across-the-board budget cut, elimination of "affairs" offices and deputy positions, and reduction in labor force.

Yumul is encouraging other committee members to come up with their own ideas for today's discussion.

His list includes ideas that Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other stakeholders have been proposing, including privatization of government functions such as parks maintenance, and consolidation of agencies with overlapping functions such as the Department of Labor and Workforce Investment Agency.

The House and Senate formed two special committees last week following a joint meeting with Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP).

Besides a Cost Cutting Committee, there is also a Revenue-Generation Committee. House floor leader Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) Saipan casino bill, pre-filed on Friday, is among those eyed to boost economic activities on the islands.

These committees' goals are to reduce government expenses and generate additional revenue to pump more money into the Fund, to extend its lifespan beyond March 2014.

Inos said the administration seeks to increase the fiscal year 2014 government remittance to the Fund, "much more than the current $10 million." Yumul said the amount could be up to $20 million. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

JAPAN

From Page 1

island. And while a conventional missile attack is far more likely, Tokyo is taking North Korea's nuclear rhetoric seriously.

On Monday, amid reports North Korea is preparing a missile launch or another nuclear test, Japanese officials said they have stepped up measures to ensure the nation's safety. Japanese media reported over the weekend that the defense minister has put destroyers with missile interception systems on alert to shoot down any missile or missile debris that appears to be headed for Japanese territory.

"We are doing all we can to protect the safety of our nation," said chief Cabinet spokesman Yoshihide Suga, though he and defense ministry officials refused to confirm the reports about the naval alert, saying they do not want to "show their cards" to North Korea.

North Korea, meanwhile, issued a new threat against Japan.

"We once again warn Japan against blindly toeing the U.S. policy," said an editorial Monday in the Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of its ruling party. "It will have to pay a dear price for its imprudent behavior."

Following North Korea's third nuclear test in February, Japanese experts have increasingly voiced concerns that North Korea may already be able to hit—or at least target—U.S. bases and major population centers with nuclear warheads loaded onto its medium-range Rodong missiles.

"The threat level has jumped" following the nuclear test, said Narushige Michishita, a former Ministry of Defense official and director of the Security and International Studies Program at Tokyo's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies.

Unlike North Korea's still-under-construction intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, program, its arsenal of about 300 deployed Rodong missiles has been flight tested and is thought to have a range of about 1,300 kilometers (800 miles).

That is good enough to reach Tokyo and key U.S. military bases—including Yokota Air Base, which is the headquarters of the U.S. 5th Air Force; Yokosuka Naval Base, where the USS George Washington aircraft carrier and its battle group are home-based; and Misawa Air Base, a key launching point for U.S. F-16 fighters.

Michishita, in an analysis published late last year, said a Rodong missile launched from North Korea would reach Japan within five to 10 minutes and, if aimed at the center of Tokyo, would have a 50-percent probability of falling somewhere within the perimeter of Tokyo's main subway system.

He said Japan would be a particularly tempting target because it is close enough to feasibly reach with a conventionally or nuclear-armed missile, and the persistent animosity and distrust dating back to Japan's colonization of the Korean peninsula in 1910 provides an ideological motive.

Also, a threat against Japan could be used to drive a wedge between Tokyo and Washington. Pyongyang could, for example, fire one or more Rodong missiles toward Tokyo but have them fall short to frighten Japan's leaders into making concessions, stay out of a conflict on the peninsula or oppose moves by the U.S. forces in Japan to assist the South Koreans, lest Tokyo suffer a real attack.

PROPOSAL

From Page 1

At present, the term of public land leases is 25 years, with an additional 15 years subject to the Legislature's approval.

A number of businesses leasing public lands are nearing the end of their 40-year maximum lease term. Among them are major hotels such as Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan, Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, and Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

Lawmakers supporting the initiative said that extending the term of public land leases "will generate renewed development interest in the Commonwealth among investors."

"A longer leasehold term would encourage lending by investment and financial institutions to finance major projects that will then create jobs and stimulate other economic activity. The leases of public land will continue to require legislative approval where the leased land consists of more than five hectares," the initiative states.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), one of the initiative's co-sponsors, said that by voting on HLI 18-5, lawmakers will be giving voters the opportunity to decide for themselves whether to change or maintain Article 11.

"Besides the positive economic impacts, this initiative will also be an option for those who do not want to remove Article 12," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* last night.

The initiative needs the vote of three-fourths of both the House and Senate.

For private land leases, the maximum term is 55 years. In recent years, there have also been calls to extend this to up to 99 years.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, when asked for comment yesterday on the newly pre-filed initiative, said revisiting Article 11 of the NMI Constitution is among the at least 78 "alternatives" to raising taxes contained in their Economic Stimulus Package.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 160 members, submitted this list of proposals to the Inos administration and the Legislature recently.

The pre-filing of HLI 18-5 also comes less than two weeks since the House passed an Article 12 initiative that allows any U.S. citizen with "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent who can own land in the CNMI.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) HLI 18-1 is now up for Senate action.

Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) also introduced an Article 12 initiative, HLI 18-4, giving each landowner the option to subject their land to the current land alienation provision for "at least 25 years" before this restriction could be removed. This initiative is under committee review.

Currently, only those with at least 25 percent NMD blood can own land in the CNMI under the NMI Constitution's Article 12.

ASYLUM

From Page 1

Inos and Sablan also thanked Napolitano for DHS' continued grant of U.S. visa waiver for CNMI-bound Chinese and Russian tourists.

U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control, isolated the Commonwealth from the rest of the United States with respect to applications for asylum.

"Without this Northern Mariana Islands-specific element in the law, there would be a significant risk that tourists from China, particularly, admitted under parole authority, would claim asylum," Inos and Sablan told Napolitano in a two-page letter.

Both are concerned that this provision in U.S. Public Law 110-229, particularly Section 702(j), expires on Jan. 1, 2014.

"We would urge the [Obama] administration to support any extension of this exemption of the Northern Mariana Islands beyond this date that might be proposed in the U.S. Congress," Inos and Sablan told Napolitano.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), a former CNMI immigration director, said in a phone interview last night that until such time the immigration system is under transition, this asylum exemption for the CNMI should be continued.

"If we don't have that exemption in place, we might be a target U.S. destination for asylum seekers. And once we start encountering those problems, we might lose our visa waiver program for Chinese and Russian tourists," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

On Oct. 21, 2009, Napolitano used her "parole" powers to grant the CNMI's request to be allowed to continue receiving Chinese and Russian visitors under a visa waiver program.

Under this parole program, Russian and Chinese tourists are allowed to enter the CNMI without a U.S. visa.

The governor and delegate spoke at great length about the positive impact on the CNMI economy of DHS' decision to waive visa requirement for Chinese and Russian tourists since October 2009.

At that time, the CNMI's gross domestic product had already dropped 19 percent that year, culminating an economic slide that began in 2004.

"If, with the implementation of federal immigration, we had lost access to visitors from the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, our economy almost certainly would have continued to decline. Instead, GDP turned up slightly in 2010. Since then, with parole being offered, the number of Chinese and Russian tourists has continued to grow," Inos and Sablan said.

They reported that hotels today are nearly full, and investors are planning to increase capacity.

"None of this would have been possible without your decision to allow Chinese and Russian tourists to come to our islands without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance," they told the DHS secretary.

'Birth tourism'

The governor and the delegate's joint letter also pointed out that the ease with which Chinese tourists may enter the CNMI has not been without problem.

They cited as an example the U.S. Attorney's Office's recent successful prosecution of an individual who had made a business of bringing Chinese women in an advanced state of pregnancy to the CNMI, "so their babies could be born with the benefit of automatic U.S. citizenship."

Saipan in particular has been receiving hundreds of pregnant Chinese tourists who give birth here, so that their son or daughter automatically becomes U.S. citizens. This has been termed "birth tourism."

Inos and Sablan asked for tighter federal watch over this.

"We would certainly urge you to encourage Customs and Border Protection agents to deny entry to anyone suspected of attempting to come into the Northern Marianas for this purpose," they told Napolitano.

Low-level security risk

Inos and Sablan also said while they are not privy to all of the intelligence that DHS and the U.S. Department of Defense must have to take into consideration with respect to Chinese or Russian tourists, "we would speculate that to have these groups enter the Northern Mariana Islands constitutes a low-level security risk."

There are no U.S. forces stationed in the CNMI and few military assets, besides pre-positioned ships several miles off the coastline.

"Very little could be learned about U.S. military posture or capability by any visitor to the Northern Marianas," they added.

Their letter comes at a time when the CNMI is working with federal authorities to come up with a "plan of action for all CNMI residents" as North Korea ratchets up its threats to attack U.S. bases in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

The CNMI welcomed Pentagon's announcement last week that it is sending ballistic missile defenses to Guam, the CNMI's closest neighbor and home to U.S. naval and air bases in the Western Pacific.

Mobil rolls back gas prices by 10 cents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan motorists got another reprieve at the pump after Mobil Oil Mariana Islands rolled back its prices by 10 cents a gallon at 3pm yesterday. As of press time, Shell Marianas's prices remained the same but the two oil giants historically mirror each other's price changes.

Regular unleaded gasoline is back to $5 a gallon at Mobil service stations on Saipan.

Super unleaded gasoline is now $5.329 a gallon.

Diesel, meanwhile, is now at $5.419 a gallon.

Noly Membrere, 60, said every drop in the price of gasoline is a welcome relief for everyone on island, especially for those like him who only have a part-time job.

"I only have a part-time job as a maintenance worker. I wish prices will be much lower than they are now," Membrere told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at a Mobil service station in Garapan yesterday. He said his wife walks to and from work, and they also limit the use of their pickup truck to save on gas expenses.

While he's glad that gas prices went down yesterday, Rudy Sablan said he wishes it would be "$4 a gallon."

The CNMI's gas prices are among, if not the highest, on American soil. Early this year, gas prices on Saipan hit a record high with regular unleaded gasoline reaching $5.20, but Rota and Tinian gas prices were worse, with diesel reaching almost $7 a gallon. Employees earning the CNMI's minimum wage of $5.55 an hour said they have to work at least an hour to pump a gallon of gas into their car.

Chamber urges cuts in retiree benefits to sustain Fund

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials and members of the CNMI Senate have their picture taken at an SCC Government Relations Committee meeting Thursday last week.

"More instrumentally constructive in the Retirement Fund's ability to continue to provide pensioners' retirement benefits than legislation aimed at casino gaming, tax rebate reductions, or any other legislation aimed at propping up the Fund, is to reduce the monthly retirement benefits paid across the board, as recommended by the Joint 18th Legislative Committee on the Retirement Fund."

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said this Thursday at an SCC Government Relations Committee meeting, among other recommendations presented to Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres and all Senate members, in delivering the Chamber's Economic Stimulus Package to the Senate in a meeting before members of the GREL Committee.

At that meeting, the Chamber also listened to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan Babauta and CNMI Department of Public Health's Roxanne Diaz offer arguments for passage of the Health Care Impact Tax Act of 2013.

"Until such time as the CNMI government reduces its liability with the Retirement Fund through an improving economy, the only realistic approach to extending the Fund's life is to decrease demand upon the Fund itself," Sablan added.

"An 11th hour push to save the Fund is not realistic without a proper plan to ensure sustainability over the long haul. Deferment of benefits to current pensioners and extending the Fund by four to five years to work on a better solution is the right thing to do for all current pensioners and the majority of tax payers who feel the brunt of resolving the Fund's dilemma," Sablan added.

The Chamber has stated its case for extending the life of the Fund by reducing its monthly payouts as early as the end of 2011 in a message to the Fund, the Legislature, and the administration. Former Chamber president Doug Brennan had stated that pension benefits should be temporarily reduced, monies deferred, and that those funds should be invested to rebuild the Fund.

At that time, the CNMI government's deficit stood at $330 million and 80 percent of that deficit was a Fund debt liability. The SCC also spoke with many current Fund retirees. Most were realistic and offered to reduce their benefits with greater reductions for those receiving larger benefits from higher income earners. Today, the Funds' deficit alone is $1.5 billion with a "B" rating, as reported by the trustee *ad litem*.

Sablan concluded, "With less demand on the Retirement Fund, an improving tourism industry, cost-cutting by government and improved enforcement of tax and revenue laws, the Chamber sees a Retirement Fund with a much longer life span than the current 11 months that estimated today." ***(SCC)***

Inos appoints Seman to new post, keeps 1 more CPA board member

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos accepted the courtesy resignation of Marvin K. Seman as special assistant for homeland security and subsequently appointed him Special Assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management pursuant to a new law that merged the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and the Emergency Management Office.

The governor, at the same time, did not accept Benigno M. Sablan's courtesy resignation as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors.

These are among the latest decisions that the Inos administration has made pursuant to an ongoing agency performance review and reorganization.

Last week, the governor also appointed former senator Thomas Kiyu Villagomez to serve on the CPA board. His appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent.

» Governor OKs salary cap exemption for NMHC deputy corporate director

Salary cap

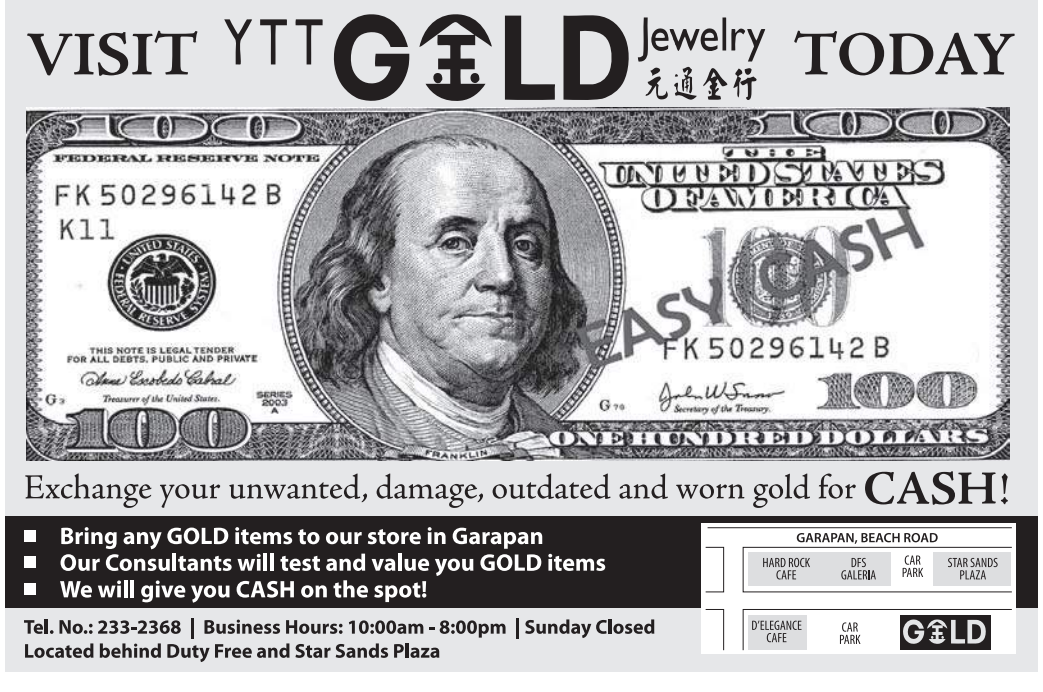
In other news, the governor certified and approved on Friday the over-the-cap salary of Northern Marianas Housing Corp. deputy corporate director Zenie P. Mafnas.

Inos said that Mafnas will receive an annual salary of $58,000.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at $50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling and submit a certification to the Legislature.

"…After a diligent effort, the Commonwealth is unable to recruit a professionally or technically qualified person to take the appointed position of deputy corporate director at NMHC. By copy of this letter, I am also advising the Civil Service Commission of this certification pursuant to law," the governor said in a letter to the Legislature.

Mafnas is also a member of the commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, which has regulatory oversight over the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., IT&E, MCV, and other telecommunications entities.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12 students, MHS group win regional thespian competition

Twelve students from private and public secondary schools, along with the musical group Rhythm 'N Harmony, won big at the 2013 Thespian Regional Competition held Saturday at Oleai Elementary School.

The CNMI Team, composed of 24 members, will be heading to Lincoln, Nebraska, in June this year to vie for the national titles.

Organized by the National Forensic League board, about 50 finalists vied for the prestigious awards during the whole day event on Saturday.

Participants in the thespian regionals were the top performers in their contest categories during the first four preliminary rounds throughout the year.

In the junior thespian division, four students made it to the nationals: Kyle Villegas of Saipan American Education Foundation, who was the gold medalist in monologue; Hopwood Junior High's Diane Hermogenes, who topped the solo musical; and the tandem of Robert Narmito and Cyril Salcedo from Grace Christian Academy who bested others in the duet acting category.

In the senior division, first place awards went to Saipan Southern High School's Mikhail Alcantara for monologue; SSHS' Soon Hyung Kwon for solo musical; and the Marianas High School duo of Harold Aranda and Jorem Guardian for duet acting.

In the scenic design category, the overall winner was MHS' Hannah Alcordo; SSHS' Carlos Manalo for best costume design; MHS' Andrew Villanueva for film category; and SSHS' Yong Jeong (Annie) Kim, who won gold for marketing.

The 12-member MHS Glee Club Rhythm N' Harmony was the regional competition's overall winner for group musical category. The group had just won the sweepstakes trophy at the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

According to musical director Paul Dujua, this year was Rhythm 'N Harmony's third participation in the International Thespian Festival. He said the 12-member team is composed of both junior and high school MHS students.

One of its members, Lemuel Bunao, is excited about their upcoming trip to the nationals and vowed to do his best to bring honor to the Commonwealth.

Harold Easton, chapter director for the Thespian Society in the Western Pacific Islands, described this year's delegation as extremely talented and has great potential to make it big at the nationals.

Despite the funding constraints, Easton is appreciative of the PSS' support, which assures their continued participation in the nationals.

The CNMI has been sending delegates to the International Thespian Society Festival for many years now and has consistently won awards and recognitions.

Due to the national government's sequestration initiative on federal grants, funding for student competitions have been affected this year. As a result, Easton said that PSS has no choice but to require the assistance of students to make all trips possible this year. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Kagman High gets funds from McTeacher's Night

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu, second right, presents Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada with a ceremonial check from the proceeds of the McTeacher's Night in a brief ceremony yesterday at the fast food restaurant's Chalan Laulau location.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan presented Kagman High School yesterday with a check donation for their participation in the public school-wide McTeacher's Night.

Store general manager Marcia Ayuyu handed the check to school principal Alfred Ada in a brief ceremony at McDonald's Chalan Laulau.

Ayuyu lauded Kagman High School teachers, students, parents and other supporters for supporting McTeacher's Night.

The program was launched in December 2013 in partnership with the CNMI Public School System to generate funds to support activities and projects in public schools. Teachers serve customers at the fast food restaurant in exchange for a percentage of sales.

About five to six teachers from the Home of the Ayuyus took part in the McTeacher's Night during their designated schedule every Tuesday from 5pm to 8pm throughout February.

Ayuyu said that despite the remoteness of the school and the village where it belongs, Kagman High School was able to raise funds with the support of its population and other community members.

She said more public schools are scheduled to join McTeacher's Night all the way to October.

In April, San Vicente Elementary School teachers will leave their lesson plans in school and put on aprons to serve McDonald's patrons every Monday and Tuesday from 5pm to 8pm while Garapan Elementary School teachers are scheduled to do the same on Wednesdays, also from 5pm to 8pm.

Ayuyu said that McDonald's Saipan has been an advocate of education and the youth in the Northern Marianas, adding that the McTeacher's Night is only one of the ways to demonstrate this commitment to the community.

She invited other public schools to participate and strongly encouraged the public to support these schools to augment their funds.

For more information, call McDonald's Saipan at 235-8761.

Man allegedly tried to burn bedroom's door

Police arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly trying to burn the door of a bedroom where his girlfriend had locked herself in with their child during an argument in As Matuis Friday night.

Eugene I. Arriola was taken to Superior Court yesterday for disturbing the peace. His bail was originally set at $500 cash but this was later reduced to $25 cash.

Police detective Alexander T. Sakisat stated in his report that a police officer responded Friday night to call about a disturbance at a residence in As Matuis.

Sakisat said the girlfriend told the responding police officer that she and Arriola had been arguing and that when Arriola took a luggage and threw it across the living room, she locked herself inside the bedroom with her daughter. When the girlfriend refused to open the door, Arriola allegedly took a lighter, lit it, and inserted it into the hole where the door knob used to be.

The girlfriend told Arriola that she would call the police, but he instead threatened he would break things in the house. That's when she decided to open the door.

At the scene, when the police officer asked why he was trying to burn the door, Arriola allegedly replied that he was just being stupid and not thinking.

Police arrested him for attempted arson and disturbing the peace at the time. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Dry run for dog pound ongoing

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is conducting a dry run on the kennel for its dog control program.

Mayor Donald G. Flores and program director Tom Borja confirmed the ongoing dry run, which was initiated two weeks ago in an effort to get the facility up and running.

Borja said the dry run is intended to give program staff a "feel" on operating the facility, including determining the amount of supplies and manpower they will need every week and month.

He said the dry run is focused on managing personnel schedule and record keeping at the kennel.

Borja disclosed that the kennel presently has 15 stray dogs that were captured by Mayor's Office workers. The facility can contain up to 40 dogs.

According to Flores, his office already has permits from the Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and other authorizing agencies in place to operate the kennel.

He noted, though, that they would have to work on connecting the facility's lift station to the drainage system.

Flores said they recently received confirmation from the Department of Finance regarding the availability of the $15,000 appropriation to complete the task.

"With the money that was appropriated, we're going to move forward to connect the system," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that AA Construction is the contractor for the project.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Executive Meeting** is scheduled for **April 18, 2013, (Thursday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M.**, at the **Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room, Susupe,** Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. **Preliminary Matters**
 A) Call to order
 B) Roll Call
 C) Presence of Quorum
II. **Consent Items**
 A) Review/Adoption of Agenda
 B) Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2012
III. **New Business**
 A) Preliminary Discussion to revisit the Board's Rules and Regulations
IV. **Old Business**
 A) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
 B) Commonwealth Constitution: Article III
 Re: Section 9: Executive Functions
 (c) Reprieves, Commutations and Pardons
 C) Board's Drug Testing Policy
V. **Miscellaneous**
 A) Other Matters
VI. **Adjournment**

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho Date: 04/3/13
Chairman

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
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E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole Hearing

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **April 17, 2013, (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M., and if needed be to continue on April 18, 2013, at 8:30 A.M.** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room,** Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Presence of Quorum
II. **Consent Items**
 1. Adoption of Agenda

III.	**Parole Application**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Mariano SN. Camacho	13-001	89-20/22F/90-84 91-20/36
	2. Joseph C. Arriola Jr.	13-003	09-0225T
	3. Derik C. Reyes	13-004	11-0092/12-0109
	4. Marcelino S. Carlos	13-005	0999—0233A
IV.	**Rescission Decision**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. David T. Diaz	10-005	01-0381E

V. **Miscellaneous**
 1. Other Matters
VI. **Adjournment**

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho Date: 4/3/2013
Chairman

Bridge Capital signs up as arts festival's major sponsor

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bridge Capital office manager/chief asset manager Allen Perez, second left, hands the $1,000 ceremonial check to the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival committee in a ceremony at the company's Garapan office. Also in photo are executive director Angel S. Hocog of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, acting secretary Laura T. Ogumoro of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Logistics and Enforcement Committee chair Darrell Moteisou, and Solicitation and Budget Committee chair Erica Trinidad.

The organizing committee for the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival has secured another corporate sponsor in Bridge Capital LLC.

Allen Perez, Bridge Capital office manager/chief asset manager, recently presented in a ceremony at their Garapan office a $1,000 donation to festival committee members led by acting secretary Laura T. Ogumoro of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and executive director Angel S. Hocog of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

The donation makes Bridge Capital an "Isla" sponsor of the biggest annual arts event in the Northern Marianas. Isla is the level of sponsorship bestowed on companies or groups that give monetary or in-kind contributions worth between $1,000 and $2,000.

"We at Bridge Capital try to do our part in promoting art and the artists in the community through our support to the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival," said Perez.

The arts festival will also serve as a venue for Bridge Capital's Annual Art Competition, now on its fourth year.

Perez said that competing artists have already begun submitting their entries to this year's contest, which will give away $12,500 in total cash prizes. For the first time, the contest will feature a photography category, as well as a text voting process in partnership with Docomo Pacific Saipan.

"We wanted to encourage participation from the public so we decided to add text voting and find out what the people think about the entries and include it in the computation of the artwork's total score. Also, a lot of people have left the islands so there is a strong push from us to encourage all artists to come out and join our contest," Perez told Saipan Tribune.

According to Perez, the main purpose of displaying the entries to Bridge Capital's art competition is to bring the local artists out to the community and give them the publicity they deserve.

"Without an actual gallery for our talented local artists, we see the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival as an opportunity to promote art and exhibit over a hundred pieces of art in a setting where they can be viewed by the most number of people possible," he added.

Perez said they are expecting entries from Tinian and Rota this year. Bridge Capital has designated the mayor's offices on the two islands as the drop-off point for entries.

"Artists from Tinian and Rota can bring their artwork to their respective mayor's office and Bridge Capital will be responsible for transporting the artwork to Saipan in time for judging," he added.

All entries to the 4th Annual Art Competition will be on display throughout the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, slated for April 19 to 21 at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe.

Artists that want to join Bridge Capital's contest should visit their office along Micro Beach Road, log on to www.bccnmi.com/artcontest, email rowena@bccnmi.com or call 670-322-2222.

DCCA's Ogumoro acknowledged Bridge Capital for its continued support for the arts in the Northern Marianas.

"Bridge Capital understands the importance of promoting, preserving, and perpetuating arts in the community and we're truly appreciative of their generosity in this endeavor. We hope to continue working with them in the coming years," said Ogumoro.

CCA to implement Cancer Patient Navigation Program

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is developing a Cancer Patient Navigation Program for the CNMI with the goal of providing better services to cancer patients, families, and caregivers.

The aim of the Cancer Patient Navigation Program is to offer individualized assistance to patients, families, and caregivers in order to help direct them to resources, help them overcome health care system barriers, and to facilitate timely access to quality medical and psychosocial care from pre-diagnosis through all phases of the cancer experience.

A cancer diagnosis is a traumatic experience for most individuals and families. Cancer patients are confronted by a new reality of having to actively identify a variety of medical, care, counseling, and financial resources. Often patients are overwhelmed at the prospect of having to seek out specific resources, and often are simply unknowledgeable about what resources are available, what resources will best suit their specific needs, and how the specific resources can be accessed. The CPN will help direct patients to the right resources through the course of their treatment and recovery.

Where implemented, cancer patient navigation programs have been an effective patient-focused tool in accomplishing improvements in early cancer detection, increasing adherence to cancer screenings and treatment, decreasing health care costs, improving survival rates, client ease in communicating with health care professionals and in accessing care and resources, and better utilizing and matching up with correct medical resources for patients.

The CCA has developed as an important part of the CPN development effort a Needs Assessment Questionnaire for patients, survivors, family members and caregivers. The assessment will use the experience and information obtained to identify all of the areas of need, identify areas of difficulty and barriers, to assist in developing a comprehensive map all of the professional and non-professional resources available to cancer patients, and to identify and qualify specific resources based on these first-hand experiences. The needs assessment asks only one question of cancer patients, their caregivers, and community members: *Name one thing that you wish had known or that someone had told you when you or a loved one was diagnosed with cancer?*

The CCA is seeking the assistance of all community members who have had to deal with cancer, as a patient, a family member, or a caregiver to assist in acquiring information for the needs assessment, and in providing general information about their experiences, especially relating to what they perceived to be of most help to them as they navigated the course of cancer treatment.

Email your answer to ccamarianas@gmail.com or call 682-0050. ***(CCA)***

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
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TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **HILBERT HENRY C. SAN NICOLAS,** Defendant.	]]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0322** **FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 5, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 008 T 266, situated in Marpo Heights, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 812 square meters, more or less, as shown on the DLS Check No. 008 T 03, dated March 31, 1999, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 99-848 dated March 31, 1999, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **THERESE LIZAMA SALAS,** Defendant.	]]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0033** **FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 459, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 09, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4176, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE THE CNMI JOINT MILITARY TRAINING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The U.S. military announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) to evaluate potential impacts associated with preliminary alternatives for meeting unfilled U.S. military training requirements in the CNMI. The U.S. military proposes to improve existing and develop new live-fire and maneuver ranges and training areas on Tinian and Pagan. Existing military training areas and support facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the CNMI are insufficient to support U.S. military training requirements. U.S. military training capabilities and capacity improvements are needed in the CNMI to ensure that the U.S. military can meet its statutory and international agreement responsibilities to maintain, equip, and train combat-ready forces in the Western Pacific.

The publication of the Notice of Intent initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and public scoping period for the CNMI Joint Military Training EIS/OEIS. Scoping assists the U.S. military in assessing the proposed action by soliciting community comment as to what issues should be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. Government agencies, private-sector organizations, and the general public are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process and scoping meetings for the EIS/OEIS. The U.S. military will host public open house scoping meetings on Saipan and Tinian.

The public is invited to attend the following open house scoping meetings:

- **Wednesday, April 10, 2013, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Dandan Elementary School Cafeteria, Dandan Road, Dandan, Saipan**
- **Thursday, April 11, 2013, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Tinian Gym, San Jose, Tinian**
- **Friday, April 12, 2013, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Carolinian Utt, Garapan, Saipan**

Informational posters will be displayed and subject matter experts will be available during the open house meetings to discuss the proposed action, answer questions, and accept comments. A Chamorro and Carolinian interpreter will be available at the scoping meetings.

Also, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the U.S. military is initiating Section 106 Consultation to determine the potential effects of the proposed action on historic properties and encourages governmental agencies, private-sector organizations, and the general public to participate in the Section 106 process. The Section 106 meetings will be held in a separate area during the scoping meetings where subject matter experts will explain the Section 106 process and solicit public input on the identification of potential historic properties.

Comments may be submitted at the scoping meetings. Interested agencies, individuals, and groups may also mail their comments postmarked by April 29, 2013, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) to:

Mail comments to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Attn: EV21, CNMI Joint Military Training EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
JBPHH, HI 96860-3134

Comments may also be submitted via the website: www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com.

Yobei wraps up US tour to promote album

Local musician Parker Y. Yobei flew back to Saipan last week after successfully completing a U.S. tour to promote his latest album.

Released in November 2012, "Sweet Eyes" is Yobei's seventh album and contains 10 original tracks, including one song with the same title. The album is available for sale at Martha's Store in Garapan.

Yobei left for the mainland in the third week of March for the Sweet Eyes album tour to perform in Kent, Washington on March 28, Sunnyvale in California on March 29, Phoenix, Arizona on March 30, and in Las Vegas on March 31.

He said yesterday that he was very pleased to see that his audience already bought copies of the album and were actually singing along during his shows.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local musician Parker Y. Yobei, center, is flanked by supporters during one of his shows in the mainland as part of the "Sweet Eyes" album tour in March.

"I was very happy to see the enthusiasm from the crowd of mixed islanders from the Marianas, Polynesia, and Melanesia who are now residing in the States," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Prior to his album tour, Yobei and another local musician, Marvin I. Deleon Guerrero, also performed at the 4th Annual Chamorro Cultural Festival and the Mariana Islands Concert.

Yobei said the two shows, both held in San Diego, California, attracted thousands of music fans who are longing for the island vibe after being away from the islands for some time.

"I hope that by hearing us play our music we were able to remind them about the islands," he added.

Yobei said future performances are already in the works. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

UFO thanks donors; general membership updates

The United Filipino Organization once again took part in the Lenten observation on March 28-29 by giving away free food like congee, eggs, biscuits, bread, and drinks to all hikers making the annual trek up the peak of Mt. Tapochao.

The group's efforts were supported by donors that included Star Water Co., Detry Pumping Services (Ronald), Get Covered Tent (Tino Camacho), Jig'z Barber Shop, The Lounge Bakery, Fong's Bakery, National Office Supply, Kristo Rai Parish, Sweets N' Treat, Jhem's Restaurant, D' Elegance Café, McDonald's, DL Corp., Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Encio, Romy Sison, Adrialen Dela Cruz, Eduardo Relata, Universal, Virgilio "Borge" Castañeda, MDX Radio Club, Visminda, Bayani Association, Boholano, Samahang Laguna, Triskelion Tau Gamma Phi, Akap Pinoy, Saipan Building & Fixing Computer Users Group, Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, MAFEA, MIFICPA, CNMI Power, SIP, MAFILWA, and Bicol Association.

Peter Crisostomo of MDX Radio Club chaired this year's event.

MDX Radio Club started giving free food to trekkers way back in 1993 until other organizations joined and now it's spearheaded by UFO with the help of member organizations, private companies, and individuals.

UFO is inviting all member organizations to join them on May 5, 2013, Sunday, from 10am to 3pm at the Filcom Pavilion to get an update on the status of all member organizations of UFO. There will be free refreshments.

There will also be discussions about the upcoming *Pistang Pinoy.*

"We welcome all suggestions on contests and entertainments that we can add to the whole day program. As much as we want to maintain all programs, we are also looking for new things to do during the event," said UFO president Annamae Adaza.

Those who don't belong to any organizations are welcome and they can be UFO volunteers. For more details, call UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, treasurer Evelyn Deazeta at 989-3845, or Adaza at 483-5237 or email at ufo.saipan@gmail.com. ***(UFO)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officials and members of the United Filipino Organization have their picture taken during the Good Friday trek on Mt. Tapochao.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '93 reunion meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1993 will be having a class reunion meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, starting at 6:30pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion. For more information, call Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or Vivian Sablan at 288-1129. ***(PR)***

SGA golf tournament is a go

The Saipan Golf Association will host its March Ace of the Month Tournament, which was postponed last month to this Sunday, April 14, 2013, at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Show time is 9am, and tee time is 10am. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 1983 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 will have a general meeting on April 26, Friday, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe/Civic Center at 7pm. For more information or inquiry, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu now available

The Inetnon Åmot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Falúw says that ready-to-be-boiled, packaged Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu is available at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center at 1213 on Capitol Hill Road, across the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office. A $10 donation per package is accepted. The office hours are Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 9, 2004

Babauta to OPA: Redo audit on WRO

Citing what he described as "grave inaccuracies," Gov. Juan N. Babauta has asked the Office of the Public Auditor to redo its audit on the Washington Representative's Office. Also, Babauta wants a policy change that would closely monitor the Washington Representative Office to outline applicability of laws, regulations, and policies in the CNMI to prevent other incidents similar to the issues facing him today. In an interview yesterday, the governor lamented that the OPA's management letter was inaccurate and that the public auditor needs to reexamine its documents. He stressed that the OPA report "is ridiculous."

CUC to House: Where's the beef?

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has expressed disinterest in the resolutions being passed by Legislature, indicating that these are worthless as far as CUC is concerned. "They [Legislature] can make many resolutions as they want. It's up to them. CUC will do its work as an independent agency. Besides, they only make resolutions, they don't provide funding. So it has no effect," said CUC board of directors chair Herman P. Sablan. He cited a previous House resolution that urged the CUC to build a water desalination plant on Saipan, which he said proved futile. "If you recall, they adopted a resolution on desalination. The CUC responded, and I put all efforts to make it happen, but nobody [from the Legislature] came up and defended it," said Sablan.

Apr. 9, 2005

1.5 cent surcharge to appear on CUC bills

Utility bills sent out this month will include the 1.5-cent per kilowatt hour fuel surcharge, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday. CUC executive director Lorraine Babauta said the fuel surcharge will apply to all utility services after Feb. 28, when the surcharge regulation became effective. CUC has carefully scrutinized all billings to ensure that the fuel surcharge is properly applied, Babauta said. "Some customers will notice that they are given a credit adjustment for usage for any time prior to the Feb. 28 effective date. If customers carefully examine their bills they will see that the fuel surcharge is stated in one line and any adjustments for usage prior to the effective date of the surcharge is stated on a separate line in the bill."

Senator revives call on feds for volcano watch

A member of the CNMI Senate has revived the chamber's call on the U.S. government to provide technical and financial grants for the installation of an early volcano warning system in the CNMI. Sen. Joseph Mendiola, chair of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, said the major eruption on Anatahan this week was a reminder to prioritize the acquisition of necessary volcanic monitoring system. "We've passed a resolution urging the federal government to help us. We need to follow up on that," said Mendiola. Last August, the Senate passed Joint Resolution 14-10, which seeks the Department of the Interior's assistance in implementing the Hazards Assessment and Volcano Early Warning System for the CNMI, which, it said, is a plan prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Apr. 9, 2006

MVA: Exempt us from wage cuts

The Marianas Visitors Authority has asked the Fitial administration for exemption from possible wage cuts. During the MVA board meeting Wednesday, the MVA management said it sent a letter to Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, outlining its concerns about the proposed 10-percent reduction. MVA has also asked Inos for exemption from the proposed employee work-hour reduction. This plan, however, has already been abandoned by the Fitial administration, citing difficulty in implementation. Instead, the administration asked the Legislature to introduce legislation to implement a 10-percent salary cut among government employees.

NMC interacts with high school students

The Associated Students of NMC, Student Activities and Counseling Programs and Services recently hosted high school students in a monthlong event that introduced the premier college to prospective students. Students from private and public high school toured and visited the Saipan campus, including some 53 Marianas High School students. Different departments at the college provided presentations to the students, who also participated in a fun scavenger hunt and enjoyed other special activities at the NMC gym. Counseling Programs and Services, Student Activities and ASNMC cooperated successfully in hosting the high school students.

Island Snapshots

OPERATION DEVIANT GUARD
Participants in the third Operation Deviant Guard gather for a group photo in front of the CNMI House of Justice Building in Susupe on Friday. The Department of Public Safety and the United States Marshals Service District of Guam and NMI conducted last week a three-day compliance check targeting sex offenders.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

APPEAL
Senate vice president Victor Hocog, second right, asked the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation board Friday night to reconsider its decision not to renew the contract of corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta, citing the need to ensure continuity in the leadership at the public hospital. With Hocog is Senate Committee on Health and Welfare chair Sen. Jack Borja, first right.
MONETH G. DEPOSA

PACIFIC SUBSEA DONATES
From left, American Red Cross representatives J.D. Tenorio, Roxanne Ferrer, and John Hirsh receive a $3,000 gift certificate from Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc. vice president Jack McClure and accountant Maria Montano on Monday, April 8, at the PSSI office in Lower Base. The gift certificate will allow a group of students from this year's ARC Walkathon, scheduled for Saturday, April 13, to take an underwater submarine tour.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Tarshia L. Olopai! We saved your party 'til the weekend so get your birthday suit ready! God bless you with many more birthdays to come! Lots of love from your siblings and KaiLin.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy fourth birthday to our princess, KaiLani K. Laniyo! May God bless you with many more joyous years to celebrate and we love you too much! Can't wait to have the Hello Kitty bash you wished for this weekend! Hugs and kisses, Ankie, Daddy, and Mommy!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PACIFICA DONATION
Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. general manager Shirley Sablan, fourth from left, presents a donation check to the Korean Community of Saipan president Jong Ho Lee, third from left, and one of its members last Friday, April 5, 2013, as a show of support in the non-profit organization's ongoing efforts to raise funds for the upcoming South Korean Travel program. Sablan is joined by staffers of Pacifica Insurance. Information on the travel program is available at the Saipan Mayor's Office or the office of the Korean Community of Saipan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Obama reacting prudently to North Korea's belligerence

The Obama administration is reacting responsibly to a series of provocations from North Korea, shoring up defenses while seeking a diplomatic solution to the crisis. But even if North Korea is deterred from attacking South Korea or U.S. forces for the foreseeable future, the defiance it has demonstrated in the last several weeks renders more elusive than ever achievement of the administration's ultimate goal: a Korean peninsula without nuclear weapons.

Last month the U.N. Security Council—including China, North Korea's longtime patron—approved new economic sanctions after North Korea conducted a third nuclear test. Undeterred, the North announced Tuesday that it would restart a plutonium reactor it shuttered in 2007.

The immediate concern for the United States and South Korea is a cascade of statements and actions by North Korea that threaten the military and political status quo on the Korean peninsula. North Korea insists that it's responding to a threat posed by U.S. military aircraft that took part in recent training exercises; the real explanation for its bellicose actions is the ongoing campaign to deprive the North of nuclear weapons.

The North has declared that it is entering a "state of war" with the South and has barred South Korean employees from an industrial park jointly operated by the two Koreas. As for the United States, the regime has announced that its military has been authorized to respond to U.S. aggression with "smaller, lighter and diversified" nuclear weapons. On Thursday, South Korea's defense minister said that the North had moved to the east coast of the country a missile with a "considerable" range.

Though few experts actually believe North Korea has any intention of attacking U.S. interests or South Korea, the U.S. responded by deploying two missile defense warships in the Pacific Ocean and will position missile defense systems in the U.S. territory of Guam. Such measures are prudent. North Korea's Kim Jong Un has only been in power for a little more than a year, and it would be irresponsible for the Obama administration to ignore his bold threats.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration is attempting to enlist China in an effort to calm the situation, enforce the sanctions and up the pressure on its North Korean ally. That's the best option, to be sure; China, after all, keeps Kim's regime afloat with food and energy supplies. Unfortunately, similar entreaties by this and other American administrations have proved largely unsuccessful over the years because China has many strategic reasons to continue to support the status quo.

Even if the current crisis is brought to a quick end, it demonstrates how determined North Korea is to establish itself as a nuclear power, an ambition that if accomplished could lead not only South Korea but Japan to consider acquiring nuclear weapons. That is why the United States must continue to try to engage North Korea in an agreement in which it would trade its nuclear program for aid and normal relations. Unfortunately, the events of the last few weeks suggest that there is little interest in such an agreement in Pyongyang.

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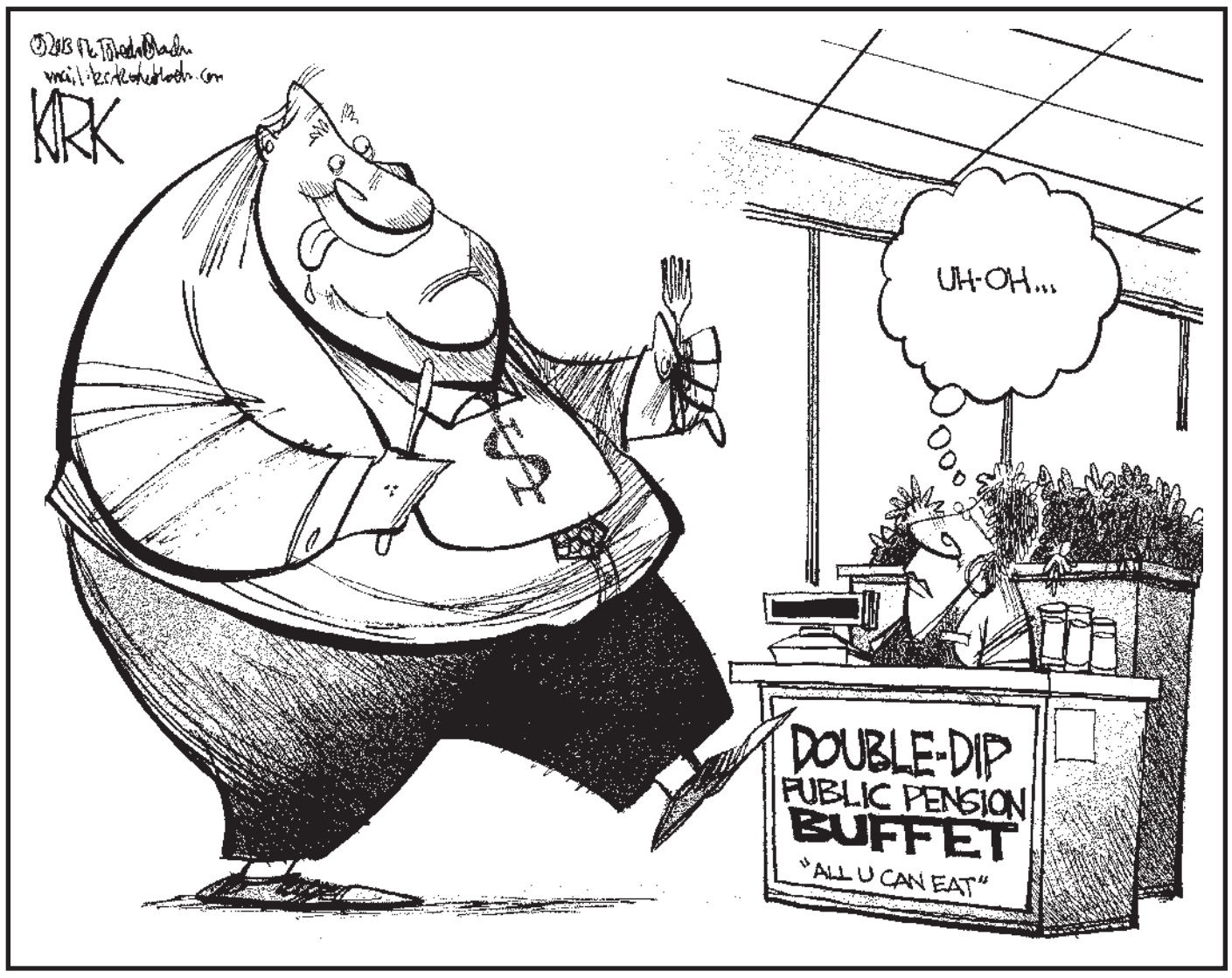


A magic touch

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

"Is there going to be a summer this year?" This was asked by a Bangladeshi student while practicing his cricket pitch in the cold, antsy that spring is taking its bloody time to arrive. The only color on the ground is white.

Michigan still has snow embankments. A blizzard is hitting Denver. Though not of snow-calypse magnitude, we still have the white fluffy stuff coming down and staying on the ground this late in the second week of April.

Sometime before 1972, the Club of Rome commissioned a project on the state of the Earth's health. The Meadows couple (Dennis was project director and Donella was writer) got their efforts published as the *Limits of Growth*. In it were four scenarios out of 12 offered that could send Gaia back to sustainability. Those chances have passed, climate change has become a reality, and human's activities are critically 150 percent beyond the earth's holding capacity.

Talks of sustainability have deteriorated into wishful thinking to, at best, maintaining the status quo. The new condition now requires resilience, the ability of the specie to adapt to new circumstances. No longer are we in the survival of the fittest game. The resilient is headed for tomorrow.

This is a long intro to the rationale of being cooped indoors on the 11th floor of our Shenyang Aerospace University dwelling as the sun gingerly peeks to check why the springs are yet unsprung. What occupies our hibernation indoors?

Magic Touch@ from which we derived our title is a brand name of a portable 35mm negative and positive scanner we procured early this year in Hawaii. We have a box-full of leftovers from our SLR days when we still touted a 28-200mm zoom lens and a 300mm telephoto to sneak a shot on the unwary. With a world gone copyright con$ciou$, we are now cautious about stolen photo images taken without explicit subject permission.

So we are editing our celluloid, saving things that are personal.

We spent our second age of innocence on Saipan. A connubial roommate said that images of her in my DB exist without written permission and I should be cautious about sharing them in public. "Besides," our dear who was junior to us by more than three decades sweetly beamed, "the mental memories are much better." We had no intention of sharing images so we wiped off the hard drive and consigned prints to the bbq flames.

But at our tender age of fast fading mindfulness, the photos come in handy to revive images sitting under the subconscious to the plain view of conscious appropriation. That's when we discovered back up copies recoverable from old hard drives, and the bounty of memories sitting on degrading 35mm frames awaiting the scan.

This week, we are on to celluloid. One precious discovery is our lonesome amidst a flock of pigeons at Lafayette Square across the White House, one perched on our head and another pecking off our hand. We still had the innocent look of one who thought the parliament of the street could influence national policy. We drove from Dallas, Texas to the capital city to join MLK, Abraham Herschel, et al, in a march against the War on Vietnam and for the War on Poverty. MLK had then realized that national economic justice was not attainable on the gains of armaments' production in support of an unconscionable fight against agrarian folks in their own land.

Most of our images are, however, from Saipan. I took pictures of 6th grade students, print contact sheets and displayed them as "Scholars of SVES." I shifted the focus of studies from passing tests, or climbing the award's ladder at graduation, to the delight of learning. Ours was clearly a quixotic effort as everything else in the school and the system cut across our grain.

As is still my practice on the first day of school in China, I click pictures of students and match them to their Chinese names. (The practice is to assume English names for the benefit of the foreign teacher.) They also get to see their faces on a contact sheet from a camera's perspective.

There is pedagogical reason for our letting them see themselves unadorned without the mental face *(mianzi)* they carry in their minds. We teach Oral English where the skill of speaking starts with listening and repeating (they echo my lead), then talk about a subject they do not have to read a book about, themselves. The real one, not the mentally embellished face. The speaking is not thematic in the conceptual sense; it is descriptive in the narrative sense. It is not prescriptive of correct thoughts nor restrictive of syntactical format.

We ask them instead to describe their sense experiences (see, hear, smell, taste, and touch), express their feelings, articulate their thoughts, and formulate their plans, turn to their personal vision and mission using the words of sense experience on their future. Of the same intent at SVES, it remains our magic touch to students.

A Buddhist monk was once asked if meditation results in enlightenment. He replied: "No, but one would be prone to the accident of enlightenment." Our self-reflective students may just meet an accident.

Futturon kutturan famaguonta

Obligasion mañaina para u kayun mona chalan futturon famaguon niha. Gaige este na obligasion lamayot patte gi edukasion famaguon-ta. Estague' na pisu 'nai siempre siha lokue' mañaunau gi mafotman haf" na kuttura para u embrasa gi kareran este na siglu (century).

Uma'afagcha' este na obligasion saina yan i anunsiu ginen gobietnon iya Texas ni para u limitte gi $10 mit pesus kuatru años na edukasion kolehu yan unibersidat gi todu state colleges and universities.

Dañkulu signifikasioña este na planu gi 'nos kuantos manera ni binhaha para hita. 1). Ha baba mas appottunidat edukasion kolehu para famaguonta. 2). Ha satban ñaihon programan scholarship gi bandan fondu. 3. Ha sedi Marianas umina haf" mas otru kinalamten iya Texas ni mauleg ta estudiaye pot hinemlu' yan kinalamten ekonomia guine.

Finu' former Speaker Oscar C. Rasa, este na appottunidat debi uma'ina ni man-ma'gasta pot para u soda'e mas chalan mafotman futturon famaguonta na siglu. Magahet na tat mas ke mauleg na edukasion gi papa' sinturan famaguonta. Mas dañkulu appottunidat niha gi katkuet offisiu.

Yangin todu felis, libianu mabira siha mage para u fan man-ayuda 'sino u atetuye haf" sineda' niha na offisiu giya Texas 'sino manu na estadu.

Deste offisinan gobietnu guine, board of education, board of regents, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, i lehislatura yan otru siha ahensia debi u fan daña gi halom un' kuattu para uma-ina este na appottunidat para i famaguonta.

■ ■ ■

Mapunu' man-neni

Guaha inetnon giya America (Planned Parenthood) ni chumochoneg man-mauleg siha na programa pot tinituhon familia. Ayo 'nai matompu' 'nai man-mafaisen kau masupopotta mapunu' neni ni man-malagnos ginen tiyan i nana gi mina' siete 'sino ochu mesis. Ni unu siña umoppe i kuestion.

Man-mafaisen lokue' haye dispues i malañgu (patient), i nana pat i patgon ni gaige gi hilu' lamasa ni sige ha ketaka' hinagoñgña? Ni este ti siña ma-oppe dibuenamente. Makat na kontrariu i para un' taga' gigat agaga'ña 'sino te'lañg tataloña i neni ni sige chafleg gi hilu' lamasa. Mauleg lamayot patte programan este na inetnon fuera ke ti listu umoppe satton sustansian linala' un' neni ni ma-intended para umapunu mapoka' (abortion).

Afañie'los: Unu ha' man-nana'e linala'—Si Yuus—pues muñga maplacha'e i asuntu ni solu guiya dumispopone. Tatnai sisida para tafan marega mage ira pot man-mama' temtum hit gi ti fafayita.

■ ■ ■

Asuntun Hinemlo'

Dimas de ta fan afatta baban heñiu, maulegña ta estira sensian yine'ase' yan pinasensia gi satbasion probleman tautauta siha.

Megai mas gi man-tautau-ta siempre u fagcha'e seriosu na chetnot piot gi 'nai magacha' rayan sisienta años na idat. Siña ha' ti megai nesessidatña magagu, sapatos yan neñkanu'. Lau lamegai siempre i prohimu para u fagcha'e 'nai ginacha' chetnot amku'.

Man-suette hit ni kutturata 'nai ta attende nesessidat mañainata. Maseha makat lau todu munana'e animu para u fan matufuñg. Estague' na patte gi kutturata sumen bonitu ya mauleg ta abiba maseha makat i mattiron mattiempu siha.

Ai na animu i dos saina gi famaguon niha 'nai trabiha man-fifitme ha' temun niha. Tat sakrifisiu ti machahlau pot nesessidat famaguon niha. Lamegai lokue besis 'nai ha mattit siha pot para u asegura na todus man-felis gi kareran niha mona. Estague' un' satton yan fitme na sensian mañainan natibu. Maila' ta sige bumohau gi entre hita mismu.

■ ■ ■

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Pot Chaleg:

Estaba un' lahihu diñga' (nietu) gi oriyan labadot 'nai sige hu brochas nifen-hu. Ha atanyu' ya mamaisen: "Grandpa, haf" na un' brorochas nifen-mu lau dofe' hau?" Hombre, i defi' timabrorochas lau i kuestioñayu' muna' chaleg. Ai na pindihote si Iku. Tras Juan ha' lokue' na'anña. De dios mihu.

■ ■ ■

Pues matachoñg gi fihonhu gi oran amotsan taloa'ne. Ha faisenyu' haf" taimanu hu ñgañgas kinano'hu 'nai lamegai gi nifenhu manaigue. Hu atan ya sige ta'lu chaka' chaleghu ni kuestioña siha. Ti hu tuñgu' haf" na guahu ha' ha popoñga deste finatoghu giya siha. Lau magahet kalagtos na patgon.

■ ■ ■

Humanau i guali'eg sige man-espiha hanom gi halom tanu'. Sinañgane ni macheñg na gaige gi ge' fena un' fina' sadog. 'Nai mattu guatu, finaisen ni kaiman manu 'nai masuettegue' man-dañkulon abas. Ha apunta un' troñku gi ge' tatte.

Kahulu' i kaiman ume-abas. 'Nai hihot guatu ti troñku, finaisen ni macheñg, "Amigu, kuantu na hanum ginimen-mu?" Piniloña na i guali'eg hafafana'. De dios!

'Nai uma'apatte dos sake ni sinaken niha pugua', estaba gi ge'hiyuñg otru dos sake 'nai mahuñgog, "Pa'gu ayu i dos huyuñg, ta apatte, unu kada unu". Esta pa'gu malalagu ha' dos ni ma'ñau niha.

Different paths, results ahead for immigration, gun control

The contrasting paths of President Barack Obama's two prime legislative initiatives—and the different likely outcomes—reflect the current state of politics and differing ways to cope with partisan acrimony and gridlock.

On immigration reform, the White House is playing an inside game, muting partisan rhetoric and taking a watchful but somewhat aloof stance, while a bipartisan group of senators crafts a sweeping bill that would provide a path to citizenship for many of the 11 million illegally in this country.

Proponents are optimistic, critics are frustrated, and there appears to be a real chance of a successful legislative resolution to this long-contested, controversial issue.

On gun control, however, the White House is playing a classic outside game, continuing to stage public pep rallies to press its case that mass murders like that in Newtown, Conn., require the banning of various types of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines as well as an enhanced system of background checks for many weapons exchanging hands in the country.

The prospects for significant action remain as uncertain as when the Newtown horror prompted Obama to tackle the issue. And his very public campaign is designed as much to win the support of ordinary Americans as to pass legislation.

The bottom line on both issues is that, with a Republican House and a Democratic Senate and president, significant bipartisan support is necessary for Obama to achieve major legislative successes. Victory is far more likely on immigration than on gun control.

A significant factor is the GOP's interest in backing immigration reform to improve its image among Hispanics. The poor performance by the last two Republican presidential candidates with Latino voters has made supporting reform more important to the GOP future than appealing to the "nativist" element that opposes such change.

The politics of gun control are very different. Support for sweeping steps such as the reinstitution and extension of the ban on assault weapons is more partisan and more centered in the mainly Democratic areas of the Northeast and Pacific Coast.

Opposition stemming from a longstanding gun culture and bolstered by the National Rifle Association's misleading statements is intense in the more rural and more conservative areas that have inordinate voting power in Congress, thanks to gerrymandering in the House and the fact that every state has equal power in the Senate.

Significantly, in Obama's State of the Union speech, he asked congressional leaders to give the issue a vote, rather than demand that lawmakers pass the measures. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is doing just that, despite his personal opposition to banning assault weapons.

Senate prospects for banning assault weapons seem dim, in part because of opposition from several Democrats facing re-election in conservative states, and such legislation is unlikely to pass the Republican-controlled House.

Despite polls showing overwhelming support among Americans, it's even uncertain whether the Senate can pass the proposal for increased background checks of weapons buyers, since GOP filibuster threats mean it will need 60 votes, not 51.

By CARL LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. *Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

Meanwhile, optimism on immigration reform stems from the fact that a bipartisan Gang of Eight is working behind the scenes on a Senate bill, and a similar group is working on a House measure. Business and labor leaders reportedly have agreed on provisions covering temporary guest workers, such as seasonal farm laborers.

Presumably the trickiest issue remains whether the final measure will include a path to citizenship or to legal status, how long that process will take and what steps applicants will need to pursue.

In the end, enactment of a comprehensive bill would be good for both parties. Democrats would fulfill an important election pledge, and Republicans would get the albatross of opposition off their backs, enabling them to woo Hispanics on more favorable ground.

But gun control, despite a clear need for action, remains one of those divisive issues where failure to act still serves the politics of both parties.

Which comes first, husband or career?

Maybe it's spring fever or maybe it's the centrifugal force from all that Sheryl Sandberg-led "leaning in," but it's been a big week for outrage about women and their place.

Last week, Princeton alumna and parent Susan A. Patton published a letter in the *Daily Princetonian* urging female students to "find a husband on campus before you graduate," lest they're forced to search for a mate among the teeming masses of the outside world. The letter triggered such a severe case of blogospheric dyspepsia that by Monday, Patton was attempting to clarify her point.

"I sincerely feel that too much focus has been placed on encouraging young women only to achieve professionally," she wrote on the Huffington Post, adding that they'd better cast their lines into the sea of eligible men while they are in college, because "the odds will never be as good again."

Patton's letter prompted a juicy mix of snide humor and feverish indignation. Several bloggers emphasized the fact that Patton had two Princetonian sons, one of whom was still matriculated (and now presumably hiding in the deepest stacks of the Firestone library). "Some Poor Kid's Mom Wrote a Letter to Princeton's Student Newspaper Begging Girls to Date Her Son," went the Gawker headline. Meanwhile, it was pointed out that, as a divorcee, Patton really had no business bullying people into matrimony. (Though, in fairness, Patton suggested that her marriage failed because her husband hadn't gone to Princeton.)

On the chance that Patton is still single and looking for someone who shares her values, she might try her luck with any of the unhitched, old-fashioned gentlemen of the *New York Times* obituary desk, of which there must be at least a few. In the race to offend women this week, the *New York Times* was the clear winner. When an obituary for famed spacecraft propulsion scientist Yvonne Brill led with "She made a mean beef stroganoff, followed her husband from job to job and took eight years off from work to raise three children," the Twitterverse exploded.

Why would someone who'd been awarded a technology and innovation medal by the president, someone who was an actual rocket scientist, get an obit that gave top billing to her cooking and her son's testimony that she was "the world's best mom"?

The Brill obituary, like Patton's letter, could have benefited from a rewrite (it got one; the lead was changed without comment). Though each in its own way underscores one of Sandberg's chief talking points—that women should not underestimate what's at stake as they make their choices—I'm not sure they can be submitted as evidence that women are systematically being steered away from careers and goaded into Stepford wifedom. The obituary, to me, was more an example of clumsy writing than intentional chauvinism (as the editor explained it, the intention was to turn "rocket scientist" into a zinger by leading up to it with a list of domestic achievements—some effects work better in the writer's mind than on the page).

As for Patton's manhunt manifesto, it's shrill and spiky, but it's not entirely wrong. Women—and men—who are certain they want marriage and family someday would do well to keep their eyes open in case their ideal mate comes along before they've hiked in Nepal or bought a condo or done whatever constitutes their pre-marital bucket list. True love doesn't magically appear as you get your act together. Sometimes getting your act together requires finding someone to do it with you.

By MEGHAN DAUM
Los Angeles Times

What is problematic about Patton's message is that it assumes that matters of the heart can be approached as pragmatically as matters of business. If you've met your soul mate by the time you're 22, great. But the truth is, most people don't. Often they think they do, only to realize that souls can be fickle. Early marriage proponents might chalk this up to immaturity and a culture of protracted adolescence, but marrying someone not for who he is but for the life he might facilitate for you down the road is pretty immature, too.

That said, Yvonne Brill seemed comfortable with her strategy. "Good husbands are harder to find than good jobs," she was known to say.

Fair enough. But not everyone's a rocket scientist.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mainly clear. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

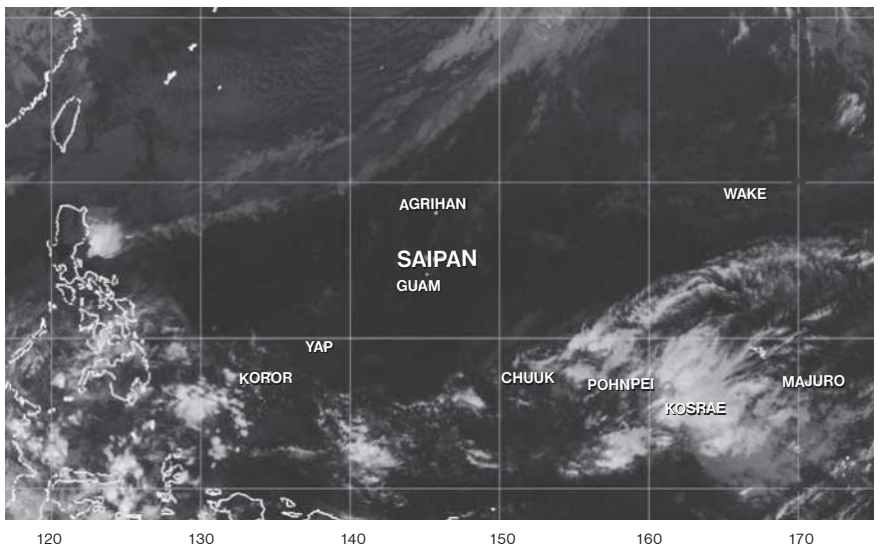
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼80
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲68	▼59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼34
Hong Kong	Showers	▲69	▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼71
London	Showers	▲45	▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73	▼56
Manila	Cloudy	▲92	▼82
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼45
Paris	Rain	▲53	▼46
Pusan	Windy	▲59	▼44
Rome	Showers	▲61	▼53
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70	▼56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼37
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼46
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from west of Minami Tori Shima at 25N149E to beyond 130E at 17N. Clouds and showers are seen along and up to 250 miles northwest of the front. A surface trough near Mindanao is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Koror west of a line from 8N133E to 2N133E. Another surface trough south of Yap extends southward from 6N139E to EQ140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring within 100 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is combining with an upper-level trough to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Pohnpei and Kosrae within 200 miles of a line from 11N155E to EQ167E and near Kapingamarangi within 100 miles of a line from 1N155E to 4N159E. Trade-wind convergence is also triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Majuro and near Butaritari between the equator and 6N from 168E to the date line. A shear line curves west-southwestward from 21N180 to near Wake Island at 18N166E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:59 AM	5:31 PM
Wednesday	5:40 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	7:14 PM
Friday	7:06 AM	8:05 PM
Saturday	7:50 AM	8:56 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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Business

Airline passenger complaints surged in 2012

WASHINGTON (AP)—Airline passengers are getting grumpier, and it's little wonder.

Airlines keep shrinking the size of seats to stuff more people onto planes, those empty middle seats that once provided a little more room are now occupied and more people with tickets are being turned away because flights are overbooked.

Private researchers who analyzed federal data on airline performance also said in a report being released Monday that consumer complaints to the Department of Transportation surged by one-fifth last year even though other measures such as on-time arrivals and mishandled baggage show airlines are doing a better job.

"The way airlines have taken 130-seat airplanes and expanded them to 150 seats to squeeze out more revenue I think is finally catching up with them," said Dean Headley, a business professor at Wichita State University who has co-written the annual report for 23 years.

"People are saying, `Look, I don't fit here. Do something about this.' At some point airlines can't keep shrinking seats to put more people into the same tube," he said.

The industry is even looking at ways to make today's smaller-than-a-broom closet toilets more compact in the hope of squeezing a few more seats onto planes.

"I can't imagine the uproar that making toilets smaller might generate," Headley said, especially given that passengers increasingly weigh more than they use to. Nevertheless, "will it keep them from flying? I doubt it would."

In recent years, some airlines have shifted to larger planes that can carry more people, but that hasn't been enough to make up for an overall reduction in flights.

The rate at which passengers with tickets were denied seats because planes were full rose to 0.97 denials per 10,000 passengers last year, compared with 0.78 in 2011.

It used to be in cases of overbookings that airlines usually could find a passenger who would volunteer to give up a seat in exchange for cash, a free ticket or some other compensation with the expectation of catching another flight later that day or the next morning. Not anymore.

"Since flights are so full, there are no seats on those next flights. So people say, `No, not for $500, not for $1,000,'" said airline industry analyst Robert W. Mann Jr.

Regional carrier SkyWest had the highest involuntary denied boardings rate last year, 2.32 per 10,000 passengers.

But not every airline overbooks flights in an effort to keep seats full. JetBlue and Virgin America were the industry leaders in avoiding denied boardings, with rates of 0.01 and 0.07, respectively.

United Airlines had the highest consumer complaint rate of the 14 airlines included in the report, with 4.24 complaints per 100,000 passengers. That was nearly double the airline's complaint rate the previous year. Southwest had the lowest rate, at 0.25.

Consumer complaints were significantly higher in the peak summer travel months of June, July and August when planes are especially crowded.

"As airplanes get fuller, complaints get higher because people just don't like to be sardines," Mann said.

The complaints are regarded as indicators of a larger problem because many passengers may not realize they can file complaints with Transportation Department, which regulates airlines.

At the same time complaints were increasing, airlines were doing a better job of getting passengers to their destinations on time.

The industry average for on-time arrival rate was 81.8 percent of flights, compared with 80 percent in 2011. Hawaiian Airlines had the best on-time performance record, 93.4 percent in 2012. ExpressJet and American Airlines had the worst records with only 76.9 percent of their planes arriving on time last year.

The industry's on-time performance has improved in recent years, partly due to airlines' decision to cut back on the number of flights.

"We've shown over the 20 years of doing this that whenever the system isn't taxed as much—fewer flights, fewer people, less bags—it performs better. It's when it reaches a critical mass that it starts to fracture," Headley said.

The industry's shift to charging for fees for extra bags, or sometimes charging fees for any bags, has significantly reduced the rate of lost or mishandled bags. Passengers are checking fewer bags than before, and carrying more bags onto planes when permitted.

Broadcasters worry about 'Zero TV' homes

AP

This undated image provided by James Weitze shows a truck driver taking a self-portrait on the road. Weitze satisfies his video fix with an iPhone. He sleeps most of the time in his truck, and has no apartment.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Some people have had it with TV. They've had enough of the 100-plus channel universe. They don't like timing their lives around network show schedules. They're tired of $100-plus monthly bills.

A growing number of them have stopped paying for cable and satellite TV service, and don't even use an antenna to get free signals over the air. These people are watching shows and movies on the Internet, sometimes via cellphone connections. Last month, the Nielsen Co. started labeling people in this group "Zero TV" households, because they fall outside the traditional definition of a TV home. There are 5 million of these residences in the U.S., up from 2 million in 2007.

Winning back the Zero TV crowd will be one of the many issues broadcasters discuss at their national meeting, called the NAB Show, taking place this week in Las Vegas.

While show creators and networks make money from this group's viewing habits through deals with online video providers and from advertising on their own websites and apps, broadcasters only get paid when they relay such programming in traditional ways. Unless broadcasters can adapt to modern platforms, their revenue from Zero TV viewers will be zero.

"Getting broadcast programming on all the gizmos and gadgets—like tablets, the backseats of cars, and laptops—is hugely important," says Dennis Wharton, a spokesman for the National Association of Broadcasters.

Although Wharton says more than 130 TV stations in the U.S. are broadcasting live TV signals to mobile devices, few people have the tools to receive them. Most cellphones require an add-on device known as a dongle, but these gadgets are just starting to be sold.

Among this elusive group of consumers is Jeremy Carsen Young, a graphic designer, who is done with traditional TV. Young has a working antenna sitting unplugged on his back porch in Roanoke, Va., and he refuses to put it on the roof.

"I don't think we'd use it enough to justify having a big eyesore on the house," the 30-year-old says.

Online video subscriptions from Netflix Inc. and Amazon.com Inc.—which cost less than $15 a month combined—have given him and his partner plenty to watch. They take in back episodes of AMC's "The Walking Dead" and The CW's "Supernatural," and they don't need more, he says.

He doesn't mind waiting as long as a year for the current season's episodes to appear on streaming services, even if his friends accidently blurt out spoilers in the meantime. With regular television, he might have missed the latest developments, anyway.

"By the time it gets to me to watch, I've kind of forgotten about that," he says.

For the first time, TV ratings giant Nielsen took a close look at this category of viewer in its quarterly video report released in March. It plans to measure their viewing of new TV shows starting this fall, with an eye toward incorporating the results in the formula used to calculate ad rates.

"Our commitment is to being able to measure the content wherever it is," says Dounia Turrill, Nielsen's senior vice president of insights.

The Zero TV segment is increasingly important, because the number of people signing up for traditional TV service has slowed to a standstill in the U.S.

Last year, the cable, satellite and telecoms providers added just 46,000 video customers collectively, according to research firm SNL Kagan. That is tiny when compared to the 974,000 new households created last year. While it's still 100.4 million homes, or 84.7 percent of all households, it's down from the peak of 87.3 percent in early 2010.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Newspaper revenue fell 2 pct to $38.6B in 2012

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—The newspaper industry's revenue declined at its slowest pace in six years, as publishers turned to new businesses and raised more money from online subscriptions. The industry's total revenue in 2012 fell 2 percent to $38.6 billion from $39.5 billion in 2011, according to the Newspaper Association of America. Online subscriptions helped circulation revenue rise by 5 percent to $10.4 billion. It was the first gain since 2003. The association's figures are projections based on a survey of 17 companies that represent about half of the industry's revenue. Publishers provided a detailed breakdown of their revenue on condition of anonymity.

Dim labor report shows US added just 88K jobs

WASHINGTON (AP)—A streak of robust job growth came to a halt in March, signaling that U.S. employers may have grown cautious in a fragile economy. The gain of 88,000 jobs was the smallest in nine months. Even a decline in unemployment to a four-year low of 7.6 percent was nothing to cheer: It fell only because more people stopped looking for work and were no longer counted as unemployed. Friday's weak jobs report from the Labor Department caught analysts by surprise and served as a reminder that the economic recovery is still slow, nearly four years after the Great Recession ended. Economists had no single explanation for why hiring weakened so sharply and broadly—from retailers and manufacturers to electronics and building materials companies.

Bodies of American exec, wife found in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand navy divers have recovered the bodies of American wireless executive Eric Hertz and his wife Kathy after their small plane crashed in the South Pacific. Divers recovered a second body Sunday from the wreck of the couple's twin-engine Beechcraft Baron at a depth of 56 meters (184 feet). They recovered the first body Saturday near Kawhia Harbour, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) south of Auckland. Divers were also able to recover pieces of the plane. Hertz, an experienced amateur pilot, radioed authorities March 30 to say the engine had failed. The couple had left from an airport near Auckland bound for the South Island town of Timaru. Hertz, 58, had been chief executive of New Zealand's Two Degrees Mobile since 2009. He'd previously been chief executive at Seattle's Zumobi and held senior positions at Western Wireless, AT&T Wireless, Bell South, CellularONE and McCaw Cellular.

Nation

US preparing for possible further NKorea actions

By ROBERT BURNS
AP NATIONAL SECURITY WRITER

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP)—The top U.S. military officer said Sunday the Pentagon had bolstered its missile defenses and taken other steps because he "can't take the chance" that North Korea won't soon engage in some military action.

Heightened tensions with North Korea led the United States to postpone congressional testimony by the chief U.S. commander in South Korea and delay an intercontinental ballistic missile test from a West Coast base.

North Korea, after weeks of war threats and other efforts to punish South Korea and the U.S. for joint military drills, has told other nations that it will be unable to guarantee diplomats' safety in the North's capital beginning Wednesday.

U.S. Gen Martin Dempsey, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman who just wrapped up a visit to Afghanistan, was asked in an Associated Press interview whether he foresees North Korea taking military action soon.

"No, but I can't take the chance that it won't," he said, explaining why the Pentagon has strengthened missile defenses and made other decisions to combat the potential threat.

Dempsey said the U.S. has been preparing for further provocations or action, "considering the risk that they may choose to do something" on one of two nationally important anniversaries in April—the birth of North Korean founder Kim Il Sung and the creation of the North Korean army.

U.S. Gen. James Thurman, the commander of the 28,000 American troops in South Korea, will stay in Seoul as "a prudent measure" rather than travel to Washington to appear this coming week before congressional committees, Army Col. Amy Hannah said in an email Sunday to the AP.

Thurman has asked the Senate Armed Services Committee, the House Armed Services Committee, and the House Appropriations subcommittee on defense to excuse his absence until he can testify at a later date.

Dempsey said he had consulted with Thurman about the rising tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Dempsey said both Thurman and South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Jung Seung-jo, decided it would be best for them to remain in Seoul rather than come to Washington. The Korean general had planned to meet with Dempsey, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, in mid-April for regular talks.

Dempsey said that instead of meeting in person with Thurman and Jung in Washington, they will consult together by video-teleconference.

The Pentagon has postponed an intercontinental ballistic missile test that was set for the coming week at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, a senior defense official told the AP on Saturday.

The official said U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel decided to put off the long-planned Minuteman 3 test until April because of concerns the launch could be misinterpreted and exacerbate the Korean crisis. Hagel made the decision Friday, the official said.

North Korea's military said this past week that it was authorized to attack the U.S. using "smaller, lighter and diversified" nuclear weapons. North Korea also conducted a nuclear test in February and in December launched a long-range rocket that could potentially hit the continental U.S.

The U.S. has moved two of the Navy's missile-defense ships closer to the Korean peninsula, and a land-based system is being deployed to the Pacific territory of Guam later this month. The Pentagon last month announced longer-term plans to strengthen its U.S.-based missile defenses.

The defense official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the Minuteman 3 test delay and requested anonymity, said U.S. policy continues to support the building and testing of its nuclear deterrent capabilities. The official said the launch was not put off because of any technical problems.

Dempsey said he was not familiar with details of the Minuteman decision because he was traveling in Afghanistan.

But, he said, "it would be consistent with our intent here, which is to do what we have to do to posture ourselves to deter (North Korea), and to assure our allies. So things that can be delayed should be delayed."

A South Korean national security official said Sunday that North Korea may be setting the stage for a missile test or another provocative act.

LOST AND FOUND AP

In this undated file photo provided by Katlyn R. Gerken, a staff member of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa holds Cashew, an 18-pound African leopard tortoise. The museum said Friday, April 5, 2013, that an employee found the tortoise behind paneling in her enclosure and hid her in an elevator in a misguided attempt to prevent further embarrassment after officials announced Tuesday that they believed Cashew had been stolen.

Schumer sees deal this week on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—A raucous public debate over the nation's flawed immigration system is set to begin in earnest this week as senators finalize a bipartisan bill to secure the border, allow tens of thousands of foreign workers into the country and grant eventual citizenship to the estimated 11 million people living here illegally.

Already negotiators are cautioning of struggles ahead for an issue that's defied resolution for years. An immigration deal came close on the Senate floor in 2007 but collapsed amid interest group bickering and an angry public backlash.

"There will be a great deal of unhappiness about this proposal because everybody didn't get what they wanted," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a leader of the eight senators negotiating the legislation, said Sunday. "There are entrenched positions on both sides of this issue."

"There's a long road," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., appearing alongside McCain on CBS' "Face the Nation." "There are people on both sides who are against this bill, and they will be able to shoot at it."

Schumer, McCain and their "Gang of Eight" already missed a self-imposed deadline to have their bill ready in March, but Schumer said he hopes that this week, it will happen.

Schumer

"All of us have said that there will be no agreement until the eight of us agree to a big, specific bill, but hopefully we can get that done by the end of the week," said Schumer.

Schumer, McCain and other negotiators are trying to avoid mistakes of the past.

A painstaking deal reached a week ago knit together traditional enemies, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO, in an accord over a new low-skilled worker program. The proposal would allow up to 200,000 workers a year into the county to fill jobs in construction, hospitality, nursing homes and other areas where employers say they have a difficult time hiring Americans.

The negotiators also have pledged to move the bill through the Senate Judiciary Committee and onto the floor according to what's known in Senate jargon as "regular order," trying to head off complaints from conservatives that the legislation is being rammed through.

A deal on immigration is a top second-term priority for President Barack Obama, and his senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said Sunday that the bill being developed in the Senate is consistent with Obama's approach—even though the Senate plan would tie border security to a path to citizenship in a manner Obama administration officials have criticized.

ACROSS THE NATION

Fire official: 2 trapped NC children likely dead

DENVER, N.C. (AP)—Two young children trapped when dirt fell on them at a home construction site Sunday were not expected to be found alive and crews expected to work through the night to recover their bodies, a fire official said. A father of one of the children called 911 at about 6 p.m. to report what happened, said Lincoln County Emergency Services public information officer Dion Burleson. Crews were on the scene in minutes, but couldn't get to the 7-year-old boy and 6-year-old girl, Burleson said. Crews used shovels and climbing gear trying to get to the children at the Denver neighborhood. Emergency personnel from several places, including nearby Charlotte, were on the scene late Sunday. Video from WSOC-TV shows backhoes scooping dirt from a deep hole surrounded by dirt. Equipment surrounded the hole. Burleson said it is hard to estimate how far down the children might be.

Calif. hiker lost for days released from hospital

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (AP)—One of two Southern California teens lost for several days in a rugged mountain wilderness was released Sunday from a hospital after being treated for dehydration and minor injuries, and recounted his struggles with fear and hallucinations before his eventual rescue. Nicolas Cendoya told reporters at a brief news conference outside Orange County's Mission Hospital that he knew from the first night he and classmate Kyndall Jack got lost during what was supposed to be a short Easter day hike that death was a strong possibility. As the night grew dark in the Cleveland National Forest on March 31 and the pair called 911 on a dying cell phone, Cendoya said he told Jack "If we don't get out of here, we're going to die." But Cendoya said he never gave up hope that he would be rescued, and as he wandered in chest-high brush reflected on what he considered recent selfish behaviors, like focusing too much on himself and not enough on his family.

Warren 'overwhelmed' by response to son's death

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (AP)—Megachurch pastor and popular Christian author Rick Warren posted a message on Twitter Sunday saying he was "overwhelmed" by the love and support offered after the apparent suicide of the youngest of his three children. "Kay and I are overwhelmed by your love, prayers, and kind words," Warren tweeted to his nearly one million followers two days after Matthew Warren, 27, was found dead. "You are all encouraging our (hash)brokenhearts." The pastor posted the same message on his Facebook page. Warren did not attend Sunday services at his Saddleback Church in Orange County, where worshippers opened the meeting with a prayer for the family. Tom Holladay, teaching pastor at Saddleback and Matthew Warren's uncle, opened the 9 a.m. worship service by saying the congregation would face the tragedy together, "as a church family."

3 more Philly priests removed in sex investigation

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Three more priests were permanently removed from ministry by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on Sunday, including one whose accuser killed himself after his allegation was dismissed by church officials. The Revs. Joseph Gallagher and Mark Gaspar were suspended following a scathing 2011 grand jury report that ultimately led to the landmark conviction of a high-ranking archdiocese official on child endangerment charges. Two other priests and a Catholic school teacher were also convicted. The February 2011 grand jury report prominently named Gallagher as a priest who remained in ministry despite apparently credible allegations of abuse. The grand jury said the archdiocese had found the allegation against him unsubstantiated despite the accuser's "obvious credibility." "Our only problem is that it took so long," Marci Hamilton, the attorney for the family of Daniel Neill, said Sunday. Neill committed suicide in 2009, less than a year after being told his allegation of couldn't be substantiated.

Asia

SKorea: 'Indication' NKorea prepping for nuke test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's point man on North Korea said Monday there is an "indication" that Pyongyang is preparing for a fourth nuclear test, a day after another Seoul official said a Pyongyang missile test may be in the works.

Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl-jae told a parliamentary committee Monday that "there is such an indication" of nuclear test preparations at Pyongyang's site in the country's northeast, according to two ministry officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Either a nuclear test or a missile test would escalate tensions that have been rising for weeks on the Korean Peninsula, and could invite a new round of U.N. Security Council sanctions over North Korea's nuclear and rocket activity. The U.S. and South Korea have been raising their defense posture, and foreign diplomats were considering a warning from Pyongyang that their safety in North Korea could not be guaranteed beginning Wednesday.

North Korea has unleashed a flurry of war threats and provocations over the U.N. sanctions and ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills, which the allies say are routine but Pyongyang says is a preparation for a northward invasion.

Ryoo made his comment in answering a lawmaker's question about increased personnel and vehicle activities at the North's nuclear test site.

Ministry officials cite Ryoo as telling the lawmakers he wouldn't provide further details because they involve confidential intelligence affairs.

South Korean defense officials previously said the North completed preparations for a nuclear test at two underground tunnels. The North used one tunnel for its Feb. 12 nuclear test. The second remains unused.

China's Xi offers to reduce friction over hotspots

AP

China's President Xi Jinping, right, listens during a meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, unseen, in Boao town, Hainan province, China, Sunday, April 7, 2013.

By CHARLES HUTZLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOAO, China (AP)—With pressure growing on Beijing to get North Korea to step back from its war-like footing, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that no one country should be allowed to upset world peace and added China would work to reduce tensions over regional hotspots.

In a speech to a regional business forum with political leaders from Australia to Zambia present, Xi did not offer any concrete plans for how to deal with China's neighbor, North Korea, which has elevated regional tensions through war-like rhetoric and missile deployments in recent weeks. Nor did Xi offer concessions to other neighbors locked in fraught disputes with Beijing over outlying islands: Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam.

It isn't clear whether Xi was taking a swipe at North Korea or at the United States, a frequent target of Chinese criticism, when he criticized unilateral acts that threaten stability.

"The international community should advocate the vision of comprehensive security and cooperative security, so as to turn the global village into a big stage for common development rather than an arena where gladiators fight each other. And no one should be allowed to throw the region, or even the whole world, into chaos for selfish gains," Xi said Sunday at the Boao Forum for Asia, a China-sponsored talk shop for the global elite.

Ambiguity aside, Xi's speech stands in contrast to more strident remarks he has made in recent months and marks an effort to strike an active, cooperative posture to calm regional tensions. This year's Boao meeting—an annual event billed as Asia's version of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland—is being watched for signs of whether Xi, installed in power five months ago, is ready to stake out new directions in a foreign policy that has been bullying toward some neighbors and passive on many international security issues.

The new Xi government is being especially challenged over North Korea. Pyongyang's ratcheting up of tensions in recent months—from tests of a long-range missile and a nuclear device to threats of nuclear strikes—have concerned South Korea and the United States, important economic partners for China which have looked to Beijing to rein in its longtime, if estranged communist ally.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard of Australia, whose economy has been booming due to Chinese demand, appealed to Beijing to use its leverage to get Pyongyang to climb down.

"All countries in the region share a deep interest in strategic stability. But the consequences of conflict are even more severe for us all. This is nowhere more clear than on the Korean Peninsula. There, any aggression is a threat to the interest of every country in the region. For this reason, I do welcome the growing cooperation of all regional governments to prevent conflict on the Korean Peninsula and to counter North Korean aggression," Gillard told the forum.

Outside of North Korea, expectations of any change in Chinese policy have been focused on Japan. Months of friction over East China Sea islands led to frosty political ties, tense cat-and-mouse games between their maritime forces and flagging trade between the world's second and third largest economies.

Xi didn't address any dispute by name but he promised a constructive approach to regional tensions.

"China will continue to properly handle differences and frictions with the relevant countries," Xi said in his speech. "On international and regional hotspot issues, China will continue to play a constructive role, adhere to peace and facilitating talks and make unremitting efforts to properly handle relevant issues through dialogue and negotiations."

Still, Xi did not present any compromise. He insisted that China would safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, language that makes it harder for Beijing to back away from territorial claims.

Xi also reminded countries that China represents a good business opportunity for neighbors and the world, saying over the next five years China's imports will reach $10 trillion while its companies plan to invest $500 billion overseas. "The more China develops, the more opportunities for development it brings the world and Asia," Xi said.

Afghan government says airstrike kills 11 children

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A fierce battle between U.S.-backed Afghan forces and Taliban militants in a remote corner of eastern Afghanistan left nearly 20 people dead, including 11 Afghan children killed in an airstrike and an American civilian adviser, officials said Sunday.

The fighting along a main infiltration route from Pakistan on Saturday was indicative of a surge in hostilities as Afghanistan's spring fighting season gets underway. This year's will be closely watched because Afghan forces are having to contend with less support from the international military coalition, making it a test case of their ability to take on the country's resilient insurgency.

The U.S.-led coalition confirmed that it launched airstrikes in Kunar province where the deaths occurred, stressing that they were requested by international forces. The coalition said it was assessing the incident, but could not confirm that civilians were killed.

The battle unfolded on Saturday, the same day that a total of six Americans, including three U.S. soldiers, died in violent attacks. In addition to the U.S. adviser killed during the operation in the east, two others—a female foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department and an employee with the U.S. Defense Department—died in a suicide bombing in southern Zabul province during a trip to donate books to Afghan students.

The deaths capped one of the bloodiest weeks of the nearly 12-year-old war. On Wednesday, insurgents ambushed a courthouse in the relatively safe west, killing more than 46 people.

The death of Afghan civilians caught in the crossfire has been a major point of contention between international forces and the Afghan government. Earlier this year, Afghan President Hamid Karzai banned his troops from requesting coalition airstrikes.

In the latest incident, Associated Press photos showed villagers gathered for the funerals of the children whose bodies were swaddled in blankets. A garland of flowers adorned the head of a dead baby.

Afghan officials said the airstrike occurred after a joint U.S.-Afghan force faced hours of heavy gunfire from militants. The joint force was conducting an operation targeting a senior Taliban leader that began around midnight Friday in the Shultan area of Kunar's Shigal district, according to tribal elder Gul Pasha, who also is the chief of the local council.

The remote area is one of the main points of entry for Taliban and other insurgents trying to move across the mountainous border from neighboring Pakistan, where they enjoy refuge in the lawless northwestern area.

"In the morning after sunrise, planes appeared in the sky and airstrikes started," Pasha said in a telephone interview, adding that the fighting didn't end until the evening.

"I don't think that they knew that all these children and women were in the house because they were under attack from the house and they were shooting at the house," he said.

There were slightly differing accounts of the death toll.

Pasha said the main Taliban suspect was in the house that was hit and was killed along with a woman and the children, ages 1 to 12, who were members of the suspect's family.

Provincial government spokesman Wasifullah Wasify said 10 children and one woman were killed and five women, who also were in the house, were wounded.

AP

The lifeless bodies of Afghan children lay on the ground before their funeral ceremony, after a NATO airstrike killed several Afghan civilians, including ten children during a fierce gun battle with Taliban militants in Shultan, Shigal district, Kunar, eastern Afghanistan, Sunday, April 7, 2013.

World

Egypt: Clashes outside Copt cathedral leave 1 dead

By AYA BATRAWY and SARAH EL DEEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Egyptian protesters of Egypt's April 6 Youth Movement clash with Egyptian riot police in Mahalla, 125 kilometers (about 77 miles) north of Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, April 6, 2013.

CAIRO (AP)—Christians angered by the killing of four Christians in weekend sectarian violence clashed Sunday with a mob throwing rocks and firebombs, killing one and turning Cairo's main Coptic cathedral into a battleground.

The clashes raised tempers in an already tense political atmosphere, as workers shut down the country's trains in a strike over wages and a dispute over the nation's chief prosecutor entered a new phase—all signs of two years of unending turmoil.

Reacting to Sunday's violence, the Muslim Brotherhood's political party blamed "dubious" attempts by unnamed parties to broaden instability in Egypt by igniting sectarian violence and spreading chaos.

A liberal opposition group, the Popular Current, said the clashes were symptomatic of the failure of the state to protect its citizens, calling on Islamist President Mohammed Morsi and his government to resign.

Morsi said in a statement late Sunday that he spoke to Pope Tawadros II by phone. He gave orders to authorities to guard the cathedral and citizens in the area, adding that protecting the lives of Muslims and Christians was a state responsibility.

"I consider any attack on the cathedral as an attack on me, personally," he said, according to the statement from his office.

The clashes at the St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral began just after hundreds of angry Christians left the complex to stage an anti-government march following the funeral for the four Christians killed in sectarian clashes Saturday.

A mob, described by witnesses as residents of the area, pelted them with rocks and firebombs and fired birdshot, forcing them back inside the complex. Few police were present.

By the time police arrived in larger numbers, the church was the scene of clashes between those locked inside and the mob outside, as the two sides exchanged rocks and firebombs. Police fired tear gas, and gas canisters landing inside church grounds caused a panic among women and children. People outside the church cheered.

Tawadros was not in the cathedral, his headquarters, during the funeral and the violence that followed. In a statement carried by the state news agency, said he was "regretful" of the violence and called for calm.

"There was no security outside the church for such a large funeral," said Emad Thabet, a Coptic Christian who was among those locked up in the church for hours. "There is no such thing as Egyptians in Egypt. There are only Muslims and Christians," he said. Copts have complained for decades that the Christian minority suffers from discrimination.

Coptic Christians make up about 10 percent of Egypt's estimated 90 million people. Attacks against Christians have increased since the ouster two years ago of autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

The clashes took place alongside a development in another of Egypt's many crises—questions surrounding the legitimacy of the country's top prosecutor. On Sunday, Egypt's highest judicial body urged him to step down less than five months after Morsi appointed him. A few days earlier, a court ruling declared his appointment void.

The statement from the Supreme Judiciary Council urged the chief prosecutor, Talaat Abdullah, "to express a wish" to return to his previous job as a judge for the sake of the unity of the judiciary.

There was no immediate comment from Abdullah. Officials in his office and in the government indicated before that he will appeal the court decision.

Abdullah's appointment in December set off demonstrations and protests by judges and fellow prosecutors. The protests forced him to tender his resignation, but then he withdrew it and stayed in office.

Removing Abdullah has been a key demand of the mostly liberal and secular opposition. Sunday's call by the council of the judiciary appeared aimed at offering him an honorable exit, a step toward ending the long-running crisis within the judiciary over the appointment.

During the past two weeks, Abdullah has issued summons against several media celebrities critical of Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president. They included popular TV satirist Bassem Youssef, who was accused of insulting Morsi and Islam. The satirist was released on bail.

Hamas shaves heads of Gaza youths with long hair

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Police in Hamas-ruled Gaza have started grabbing young men with long or gel-styled spiky hair off the streets, bundling them into jeeps, mocking them and shaving their heads, two of those targeted and a rights group said Sunday.

It is the latest sign that the Islamic militants are imposing their strict practices on the population.

Hamas has been slowly forcing its fundamentalist interpretation of the religion on already conservative Gaza since it overran the territory in 2007, but the new crackdown on long hair and tight or low-waist pants—in several cases accompanied by beatings—appears to be one of the most aggressive phases of the campaign so far.

The crackdown began last week, and two of those targeted told The Associated Press said they were rounded up in separate sweeps in Gaza City that included more than two dozen young men.

House painter Ayman al-Sayed, 19, had shoulder-length hair before police grabbed him and shaved his head Thursday.

"The only thing I want to do is leave this country," said al-Sayed, who despite his ordeal defiantly wore stylish but outlawed narrow-leg tan khakis Sunday. "I am scared. They just take you from the street without reason. I don't know what they are going to do next."

Hamas officials played down the campaign—a stance adopted in the past that allows the group to distance itself from a controversial crackdown while at the same time instilling fear in those it targeted.

Ziad al-Zaza, the deputy prime minister of Gaza, said the head-shaving "was a very limited, isolated behavior of the police and is not going to continue."

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights called on Hamas to investigate the "arbitrary detentions and violations of civil rights of civilians."

The hair crackdown came just days after the Hamas-run parliament in Gaza passed an education bill mandating separate classrooms for boys and girls from the age of nine.

Gender separation is already widely practiced in Gaza schools, as it is in the West Bank, where Hamas rival Mahmoud Abbas, the Western-backed Palestinian president, administers some areas.

Enshrining such separation in law marked another step forward in Hamas' campaign of imposing Islamic practice.

Since seizing Gaza from Abbas six years ago, Hamas has moved gradually in spreading its ultra-conservative version of Islam. It has issued rules restricting women or requiring them to cover up in the traditional Islamic dress of long robes and headscarves, but relented if met by protests.

Last month, the Hamas government barred girls and women from participating in a U.N.-sponsored marathon, prompting a U.N. aid agency to cancel the race. Hamas activists have also exerted social pressure to get all school girls to wear Islamic dress.

Al-Sayed, the house painter, and 17-year-old high school student Tareq Naqib said Sunday that they were targeted by police in separate incidents Thursday.

Al-Sayed said he had just finished his work in Gaza City and was waiting at an intersection for a shared taxi when a police jeep approached. Al-Sayed said he was thrown into the jeep with more than 10 others already squeezed into the back of the vehicle. He said policemen cursed them on the way to the police station.

AP

This citizen journalism image provided by the Local Council of Barzeh, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows the aftermath of rocket attacks on the Barzeh district of Damascus, Syria, Friday, April 5, 2013.

Syrian regime launches counteroffensive on rebels

BEIRUT (AP)—After weeks of rebel gains in the south, the Syrian regime launched a counteroffensive on Sunday with widespread airstrikes and an operation that reclaimed a northern village on a strategically important route.

At least 20 people were killed in heavy airstrikes that targeted rebels trying to topple the regime in at least seven cities and regions. To underline their resolve, the government called on opposition fighters to surrender their arms and warned in cellphone text messages that the army is "coming to get you."

State television said the aim of the counteroffensive was to send a message to the opposition and its Western backers that President Bashar Assad's troops are capable and willing to battle increasingly better armed rebels on multiple fronts.

Rebels have been making gains in recent weeks, especially in the south near the border with Jordan. They have seized military bases and towns in the strategically important region between Damascus and the Jordanian border about 100 miles away.

However in the north, the main rebel stronghold, government troops have been chipping away slowly over the past weeks at rebel gains around the city of Aleppo, the country's main commercial hub. They have been hammering rebel-held districts inside the city with fighter jets and artillery, sowing fear among residents.

Troops recaptured on Saturday the village of Aziza on a strategic road that links Aleppo with its airport and military bases, activists said. Rebels have been trying to capture that airport and the nearby bases for months now.

The regime seized back the village southeast of Aleppo after a 10-day battle with rebels, said Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"It's a setback for the rebels because the village is an important strategic point from which the army can shell (opposition) positions all around the area," Abdul-Rahman said.

Focus

AP

Jody Winslow, of Farmington, Conn., carries signs regarding the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution as he heads back to the Capitol in Hartford, Conn., Wednesday, April 3, 2013. Hundreds of gun rights advocates are gathering at the statehouse in Hartford ahead of a vote in the General Assembly on proposed gun-control legislation.

US arms control advocates must show they like guns

By ALEXANDRA OLSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—Lobbying for gun control in the United States often means proving how much you like firearms.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, whose state recently passed some of the strictest gun control measures in the country, often reminds people he is a hunter. Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who founded a gun control advocacy group after surviving a gunshot wound to the head, says she and her husband keep two guns in a safe at home. Vice President Joe Biden boasts that he owns two shotguns. And the White House recently released a photo of President Barack Obama skeet shooting at the Camp David presidential retreat, trying to silence skeptics of his claim in an interview that he has actually shot a gun.

The message is obvious: They, too, are a part of America's gun culture. In a country where at least a third of households have firearms, it's hard to impose stricter arms rules without support from gun owners. That means reassuring Americans that nobody is going to take away the guns they have legally acquired.

Gun rights groups scoffed at what they called clumsy and obvious attempts by Biden and Obama to ingratiate themselves with firearm owners even while trying to limit their rights.

"It's transparent, cynical and hollow and gun owners see right through it," said Lawrence Keane, senior vice president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, an association that represents gun manufacturers.

But gun control proponents have pressed on with such efforts ahead of a crucial Senate vote on legislation backed by the Obama administration in response to the Dec. 14 shooting of 20 children and six educators at a Connecticut school.

A recent $12 million ad campaign, bankrolled by billionaire New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, urged moderate Republican and Democratic senators to support expanding federal background checks for gun sales, a system that currently applies only to federally licensed dealers. Advocates want to include gun show sales.

Far from criticizing guns, the ad shows a scruffy-faced man holding a shotgun in the back of a pickup truck. He argues that background checks don't infringe on the Second Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees the right of citizens to bear arms and is often cited by gun rights defenders.

"For me, guns are about hunting and protecting my family," the man says, as two children play on tire swings in the background. "I believe in the Second Amendment, and I'll fight to protect it. But with rights come responsibilities. That's why I support comprehensive background checks, so criminals and the dangerously mentally ill can't buy guns."

Broader background checks face an uphill battle in Congress, along with proposals for a ban on military-style assault rifles and limits on ammunition capacity. Many Republicans and some Democrats represent states where citizens have vocally expressed fears that their gun rights will be taken away in the wake of the Connecticut shooting.

Gun sales nationwide surged after the school attack as people rushed to buy weapons they feared would be banned. Some communities have voted to allow teachers to carry firearms in schools, arguing that guns make people safer. A handful of small towns have even issued ordinances requiring their residents arm themselves.

The powerful National Rifle Association, which spent at least $24 million during the last U.S. election cycle, has stoked those fears, suggesting that the White House's real intention to eventually to ban all firearms. "It's about banning your guns ... PERIOD!" NRA leader Wayne LaPierre wrote in January email to the group's 4 million members.

But gun control advocates see evidence that, since the Connecticut shooting, many firearms owners are more open to stricter laws than the NRA contends.

Recent polling shows that more than 80 percent of Americans support extending federal background checks to include gun show sales and private purchases. Colorado, a state with a strong frontier tradition of gun ownership, passed legislation last month that expanded background checks to apply to personal and online sales and limited magazine capacity to 15 bullets. Connecticut followed suit with an even stronger bill to ban more than 100 previously legal weapons. In Maryland, legislators have approved a measure that, among other things, requires people who buy a handgun to submit fingerprints to state police.

> *I'm 100 percent for expanded background checks, because if you have something to hide, we don't want you to have a gun.*

Obama and others are touting such efforts as signs that the country can bridge one of its deepest cultural divides: The split between mostly rural Americans who cherish guns for hunting and self-defense and urban citizens who equate them with gang violence, drive-by shootings and young lives lost.

"I'm 100 percent for expanded background checks, because if you have something to hide, we don't want you to have a gun," said Jaci Turner, a gun owner who lives in a suburb of Denver, Colorado. "I don't have anything to hide, so I'll answer all your questions."

Turner, a dog trainer, grew up around guns in Minnesota. Weekends were often spent hunting or on the shooting range with her father. She and her husband, a big animal veterinarian, have shotguns, a rifle, a handgun and are in the process of acquiring a semi-automatic gun. She plans to take her 6-year-old daughter to the shooting range for the first time this year. Like many people from Colorado, Turner considers guns a normal part of enjoying the great outdoors.

"One of the biggest reasons for carrying a handgun is we spend a lot of time in the back country, so it's protection from wild animals," Turner said. "It's a whole lot easier to carry in a backpack than a different type of gun."

But Turner was unfazed when Colorado passed new gun control legislation. She said she doubted hunting groups would follow through on threats to boycott the state.

"I think they'll come here under the radar because if you are a hunter, you are a hunter," she said. "I don't have a huge problem with controlling large high-capacity or even high-caliber firearms because they were made for a reason, and we don't have that reason in our lives. I'm not walking around Afghanistan."

Giffords, the former congresswoman who was left partially blind and struggling to talk in a January 2011 shooting that killed six other people in Arizona, tried to reach people like Turner in a recent ad campaign promoting extended background checks.

"There are solutions we can agree on, even gun owners like us," Giffords said in the commercial.

Biden tried to strike a similar tone in a recent online video as part of a Facebook town hall. Reminiscing about learning firearm safety from his father, a hunter, the vice president said he has told his wife, Jill, to take one of their shotguns and "fire two blasts outside the house" if she ever felt threatened by an intruder. His point was that nobody needs a semi-automatic weapon to protect their home. "Buy a shotgun, buy a shotgun," Biden urged listeners.

But for some gun defenders, Biden only proved that the gap remains wide between his side of the debate and theirs.

Keane, the vice president of the gun association, which is based in the Connecticut town where the school shooting occurred, said many people prefer semi-automatic guns for protection because it gives them a better chance to hit their target.

Turner said she wants to add a semi-automatic to her collection for that very reason.

"Well, good luck, Joe," she said, referring to the vice president. "When someone walks in the house and you're freaked out, you're only going to give her two chances? Good luck."

Overdrive

Honda's CR-V holds its own against competitors

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

One of the first of the now-popular class of vehicles known as crossovers, the compact Honda CR-V deservedly has always been a star in its niche, even as the competition grew.

The 2013 Honda CR-V carries a 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine, rated at 185 horsepower and 163 foot-pounds of torque. HONDA/MCT

Introduced originally for 1997, the CR-V last year entered its fourth generation, with an all-new design that gave it a sleeker, less boxy exterior; a more refined interior; and some new technology to help it keep up with the tech-savvy buyers to whom the CR-V consistently appeals.

For 2013, prices begin at $22,795 for the base front-wheel-drive LX version, and run as high as $30,295 for the top-of-the-line EX-L version with all-wheel drive and the navigation package. The "L" designation stands for "leather."

In between are the LX all-wheel-drive version and a variety of EX (no leather) and EX-L models, with either two- or four-wheel drive.

Our tester was the top model, the EX-L all-wheel drive with the built-in navigation system. This model was equipped with everything one can buy on the CR-V except the rear-seat entertainment system, which apparently is not available on models that include the nav system.

There's also an upscale version of the CR-V sold under the Acura name—the RDX. It has its own unique exterior and interior styling, but essentially is just a fancier CR-V underneath, although it is about five inches longer. It ranges from $34,320-$39,420, and also comes with either front- or all-wheel-drive.

The CR-V has room for up to five passengers. No third row has ever been offered in this model, although its biggest competitor, the Toyota RAV4, did have a small third-row seat in its previous generation; it lost that feature with a complete redesign for 2013.

Other competitors in this burgeoning class include the Ford Escape, which was also redesigned for 2013 and now looks a lot like the CR-V; Nissan Rogue; Mitsubishi Outlander and Outlander Sport; Subaru Forester; the new Subaru XV Crosstrek; Subaru Outback; Buick Encore; Kia Sportage; Hyundai Tucson; Jeep Patriot and Compass; Mazda CX-5; Volkswagen Tiguan; Chevrolet Equinox; and GMC Terrain.

Even with all of that competition, the CR-V holds its own in the market. Although sales are off slightly so far this year from last year's totals, Honda sold 281,652 of the CR-V during 2012, a 29 percent increase from 2011. That outpaced the RAV4 by more than 100,000 sales and made the CR-V one of the nation's best-selling vehicles for the year.

The CR-V also garnered some accolades, such as making Kelley Blue Book's list of "Top 10 Family Cars," among others.

Its popularity is based on a variety of attributes, including comfort, safety, reliability and even its fuel economy—23 mpg city/31 highway for the front-drive models and 22/30 for the all-wheel drives.

It's not best in class for mileage, though. Mazda claims 26/35 with the manual-transmission version of its CX-5, and 26/32 with the automatic version. Still, the CR-V's fuel economy is comparable to most of its competitors, even though its standard five-speed automatic transmission is getting a bit dated; most vehicles in this class have a six-speed, which generally gives slightly better highway mileage.

Under the hood of all CR-V models is a 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine, rated at 185 horsepower and 163 foot-pounds of torque. We found it to have plenty of power for this vehicle, even with a couple of people in the back seat and some luggage in the rear.

We gave it a run on some hills, too, and the CR-V never felt underpowered, although the cruise control didn't hold the speed on the uphill runs as precisely as I expected—it dropped as much as 5 mph at times.

Among standard equipment are leather seats/steering wheel/shift knob; heated front seats (10-way power-adjustable for the driver); a power tilt/slide sunroof; a rearview camera built into the voice-activated navigation system; a premium audio system with seven speakers (including subwoofer); power windows/mirrors/door locks with remote; and dual-zone automatic climate control.

Honda says the new exterior design was intended to give the CR-V a more aggressive look, but to me it's actually softer than before, with lines that seem to flow. It's remarkably similar in appearance to both the Escape and RAV4.

There is a new horizontal three-bar grille and deep-set multi-reflector headlights, bolder fender flares and a lower rear roofline with a liftgate that tilts slightly forward at the top.

Inside, the CR-V is now more carlike, and the seats are lower than before. Outward visibility is still excellent, though.

As longtime CR-V owners, we noticed how quiet the newest generation is, even at high freeway speeds. Honda attributes that to a more-rigid body structure, improved suspension isolation, more insulation, and better aerodynamics—including underbody covers and a rear spoiler.

During our test, we averaged about 27 mpg in a mix of highway and city driving—with the highway miles about 70 percent of the total. That was using the provided ECON mode, which sets transmission shift points to optimize fuel economy rather than provide jackrabbit starts.

Safety features include electronic stability control, four-wheel antilock disc brakes with brake assist, roof-mounted side-curtain air bags with rollover sensor, and front seat-mounted side air bags.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Honda CR-V:

- The package: Compact, five-door, five-passenger, four-cylinder powered, front- or all-wheel-drive crossover utility vehicle.
- Highlights: The CR-V entered its fourth generation for 2012, with a new, sleeker body design and more-refined interior. It's roomy, pleasant to drive, and has adequate power with its four-cylinder engine.
- Negatives: No engine upgrade offered for more power; five-speed automatic transmission is outdated; no manual gearbox available for better fuel economy.
- Engines: 2.4-liter inline four-cylinder.
- Transmission: Five-speed automatic.
- Power/torque: 185 horsepower/163 pound-feet.
- Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.
- Length: 178.3 inches.
- Curb weight range: 3,305-3,490 pounds.
- Cargo volume: 37.2 cubic feet (rear seat in place); 70.9 cubic feet (rear seat folded down).
- EPA fuel economy: 23 mpg city/31 highway (front drive); 22/30 (all-wheel drive).
- Base price: $22,795
- Price as tested: $30,295
- On the Road rating: 8.7 (of a possible 10).

All prices exclude destination charge.

UNDER THE HOOD

Strut renewal possible at home

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a question about struts. The dealer gave me a quote of more than $1,800 to replace the front struts on my 4-cylinder 2001 Toyota Camry. Yikes! The independent shops are pretty steep, too.

Then I found out about KYB Strut-Plus and Monroe Quick-Struts for a lot less money. I'm thinking about just tackling the job myself using one of these products. They are a complete unit with pre-compressed new coil springs, the strut and strut mount. I am pretty mechanically inclined.

Is there a downside to using these units and installing them myself? I'm leaning more toward the KYB Strut-Plus. We plan to keep the car for several more years. It has about 95,000 miles on it and runs great. Or should I have the dealer or an independent shop just put on struts and use the old coil springs?—Bob McKay

ANSWER: Yikes is right! I can't fathom the price you were quoted for this simple service procedure. Periodic renewal of struts is necessary, as these tubular suspension parts contain the shock absorber. Shock absorbers wear out somewhere between 50,000-100,000 miles, which can affect vehicle stability, tire tread life and ride comfort.

Replacing struts on a typical MacPherson strut vehicle involves removing the complete strut assembly, which is a fairly simple initial process. The strut is then mounted in a spring compressing fixture and disassembled. Typically the coil spring and upper strut mount, if in good condition, are transferred to the new strut and reassembled. On some vehicles, the strut contains a replaceable cartridge, and the strut housing and other parts are reused.

The quick replacement and complete strut assemblies you mentioned are a great idea, as renewing the complete assembly is a real time-saver and eliminates the inconvenience and danger associated with compressing the spring or disassembling the strut if attempted at home. Also, the new assembly includes the spring insulators, upper bearing and mount, which often need replacement. You're paying for a new coil spring, which may not be a bad idea either, as springs can sag, affecting ride height and wheel alignment. Replacement (bare) name-brand struts run about $60 to $80 apiece, and after you include the insulators and upper bearing, you're only a bit shy of the cost for the complete unit—$160 or so. The prices I mentioned involved some frugal shopping and may be a best-case scenario.

The standard answer is yes, you should align the front wheels after renewing struts. Your Camry has elongated mounting bolt holes at the bottom end of the strut, allowing a camber adjustment, in which the wheel leans in or out. It would be difficult to accurately guess or estimate proper reassembly position, and differences in manufacturing tolerance of new versus old strut can also affect wheel alignment. On vehicles with wishbone suspension, on which the strut is more like a simple shock absorber, or with cartridge-type or non-adjustable struts, you might forego the alignment process.

When removing your original struts, note the paint deformity and crush position of the lower mounting bolt washers. Imitate this as closely as possible when bolting up the replacement units. Wheel alignment will be close enough to allow a day or two of vehicle use prior to getting in to the alignment shop.

Thanks, Bob, for bringing up this topic—it'll likely be of use to quite a few other folks.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Luke Bryan, Miranda Lambert win big at ACMs

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Everything went to script at the Academy of Country Music Awards until the end, when Luke Bryan pulled off an amazing upset and won entertainer of the year.

AP

From left, Neil Perry, Kimberly Perry and Reid Perry, of musical group The Band Perry, perform at the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 7, 2013.

Bryan immediately overshadowed top winner Miranda Lambert's big night by beating out some of country music's top performers, including Lambert and her husband Blake Shelton, Jason Aldean and two-time entertainer of the year Taylor Swift in an upset that few would have predicted because of his relatively recent move into the spotlight.

The 36-year-old recently began headlining his first arena tour and was the co-host of this year's show.

"I don't know what to say guys," Bryan said. "Thank you so much fans for doing this to me. Thank you so much for making my life what it is. What I always wanted to be was just a country singer who got to ride on a tour bus and show up on a new stage and play music every night."

Bryan is the first male winner of the award since 2007 when Kenny Chesney won the first fan-voted award. Swift and Carrie Underwood have won two apiece since then.

Lambert won her fourth straight female vocalist award and picked up three trophies for her hit song "Over You"—one for single record of the year and two for song of the year. She was performer of the song and co-wrote the song with Shelton.

"Over You," written about Shelton's late brother, won song of the year at the Country Music Association Awards last November as well.

"As a songwriter, having your song and your lyrics recognized by your peers is pretty much as good as it gets," Lambert said. "And I'm so thankful for being in this genre of country music, every single time someone's nominated, I just cheer, because I love everybody to death. So thank you for accepting me as a song writer, not just as a singer, because that means the world to me."

Eric Church won two awards, including album of the year, and was tied with Aldean, Little Big Town and Florida Georgia Line in overall win total.

Church, this year's top nominee, also won vocal event of the year for his collaboration with Aldean and Bryan for their collaboration on "The Only Way I Know" and performed his somber but powerful song "Like Jesus Does" with only an acoustic guitar and a backup singer.

"I think my career is going to be pre-'Chief' and post-'Chief,'" Church said. "Album of the year is most special to me."

Aldean, country's top-selling male act, won male vocalist of the year. Little Big Town had wins for vocal group and video of the year. Florida Georgia Line won for new artist and were previous winners in the new vocal duo/group category. And husband and wife Shawna and Keifer Thompson continued their feel-good story as Thompson Square won its second straight vocal duo of the year award.

The night was full of colorful performances, but the anticipation of Garth Brooks and George Strait performing together overshadowed almost everything else. The two paid tribute to the late Dick Clark, the executive producer of the show since 1979 who passed away a year ago.

Brooks appeared on stage in flannel shirt and black cowboy hat with a Fu Manchu to perform his hit "The Dance" before Strait joined him for "The Cowboy Rides Away."

Reba McEntire introduced the two and paid tribute to Clark, momentarily breaking down as tears appeared in her eyes.

"He would slap me if he saw me crying up here," she said.

5,000 NYC pay phones will take you back to 1993

NEW YORK (AP)—Want to journey to a grittier time in New York City's not-too-distant past, when the murder rate was sky-high, Times Square was a crossroads of crime and pornography, Starbucks had yet to arrive, and hardly anyone owned a cellphone?

A project designed to promote an art exhibit has turned 5,000 Manhattan pay phones into time machines that take callers back to 1993, a pivotal year in the city's art, culture and politics.

Pick up a receiver on the rarely used phones that still dot the New York streetscape, punch 1-855-FOR-1993 and you will hear a notable resident recounting what life was like on that block 20 years ago.

AP

In this Wednesday, April 3 2013 photo, visitors to the New Museum in New York inspect the artwork on display during the "NYC 1993: Experimental Jet Set, Trash and No Star" exhibit.

"We liked, creatively, the idea of using a sort of slightly broken, disused system as the canvas of this project," said Scott Chinn of Droga5, the ad agency behind the campaign for an exhibit titled "NYC 1993: Experimental Jet Set, Trash and No Star."

An eclectic mix of artists, writers, food and fashion stars, and others has been recruited to reminisce, including chef Mario Batali, actor Chazz Palminteri, porn performer Robin Byrd and former one-handed Yankees pitcher Jim Abbott, who threw a no-hitter in 1993.

The narrators describe a New York that was dirtier, bloodier, raunchier and less gentrified than today—but also an easier place for a talented young person to gain a foothold.

Batali says in his sound bite that opening a restaurant was easier in 1993 when he debuted his first restaurant, Po.

"You didn't have to have a rich daddy or an investor or put together a team or anything like that," he says. "It's sad to watch the cost of business push the real individualist entrepreneurs out of the game."

Bike shop owner Dave Ortiz remembers when the city's Meatpacking District, now home to trendy restaurants, nightclubs and pricey boutiques, was the wild, wild West.

"The rats were huge," he says. "They were as big as cats, so you had to walk in the middle of the street. It's amazing what they turned it into. It's cool but it's lost its, like, authenticity."

Mom: 'BUCKWILD' star a Christian, now in heaven

CHARLESTON, West Virginia (AP)—For all his on-camera carousing and cussing, "BUCKWILD" reality TV star Shain Gandee was a publicly proclaimed and baptized Christian, and his mother told hundreds of mourners Sunday that she will see him again.

"I know where Shain is," Loretta Gandee told the family, friends and fans crammed into the Charleston Municipal Auditorium. "He said about a month ago, 'I know when I die I'm going to heaven.'"

Gandee

Shain Gandee, nicknamed "Gandee Candy" by fans, was a breakout star of the reality TV show that followed the antics of young friends enjoying their wild country lifestyle. Season one was filmed last year, mostly around Sissonville and Charleston.

Dressed in a hot-pink "Gandee Candy" T-shirt and jeans, Loretta Gandee spoke only a few words but bellowed out an unaccompanied hymn, her voice echoing through the auditorium in prayer for their reunion.

Gandee, his 48-year-old uncle, David Gandee, and 27-year-old friend Donald Robert Myers were found dead April 1 in a sport utility vehicle that was partially submerged in a deep mud pit near Sissonville. They had last been seen leaving a bar at 3 a.m.

Autopsies determined all three died of carbon monoxide poisoning, possibly caused by the tailpipe being submerged in mud. That could have allowed the invisible gas to fill the vehicle's cabin.

The Rev. Randy Campbell told the many young people in the crowd he understands that life bombards them with difficult choices. But he urged them to follow Shain Gandee's lead and embrace their faith now, while they are energetic and engaged.

"This life will hand you a lot of things and call it pleasure, but there is nothing that brings greater joy to a person's heart than serving the Lord," Campbell said. "You may think at this point, you're having fun, but those days will pass."

When they do, he said, God is all that matters.

Cameras were not allowed at the funeral or private family burial in Thaxton Cemetery.

As hundreds filed past the two closed coffins on the auditorium stage, a slideshow of family photos showed the simple life that Shain Gandee lived long before TV cameras started following him.

Set to country music were snapshots of him as a uniformed pee wee football player, as a teenager in a tuxedo for prom, then graduating from high school in a black gown and mortarboard.

Fashion designer Lilly Pulitzer dies at 81

MIAMI (AP)—Lilly Pulitzer, a Palm Beach socialite turned fashion designer whose tropical print dresses became a sensation in the 1960s and later a fashion classic, died Sunday. She was 81.

Her death was confirmed by Gale Schiffman of Quattlebaum Funeral and Cremation Services in West Palm Beach. She did not know Pulitzer's cause of death.

Pulitzer, who married into the famous newspaper family, got her start in fashion by spilling orange juice on her clothes. A rich housewife with time to spare and a husband who owned orange groves, she opened a juice stand in 1959 and asked her seamstress to make dresses in colorful prints that would camouflage fruit stains.

Pulitzer

The dresses hung on a pipe behind her juice stand and soon outsold her drinks. The company's dresses, developed with the help of partner Laura Robbins, a former fashion editor, soon caught on.

"Lilly has been a true inspiration to us and we will miss her," according to a statement on the Lilly Pulitzer brand Facebook page.

Jacqueline Kennedy, who attended boarding school with Pulitzer, even wore one of the sleeveless shifts in a Life magazine photo spread.

The signature Lilly palette features tongue-in-cheek jungle and floral prints in blues, pinks, light greens, yellow and orange—the colors of a Florida vacation.

"I designed collections around whatever struck my fancy ... fruits, vegetables, politics, or peacocks! I entered in with no business sense. It was a total change of life for me, but it made people happy," Pulitzer told The Associated Press in March 2009.

The line of dresses that bore her name was later expanded to swimsuits, country club attire, children's clothing, a home collection and a limited selection of menswear.

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Jurassic Park 3D

Friday		7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday & Thursday		7:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Steven Spielberg's phenomenally successful sci-fi adventure thriller is graced by state-of-the-art special effects from the team of Stan Winston, Phil Tippett and Michael Lantieri from George Lucas's Industrial Light & Magic. The film follows two dinosaur experts – Dr. Alan Grant (Sam Neill) and Dr. Ellie Sattler Laura Dern)– as they are invited by eccentric millionaire John Hammond (Richard Attenborough) to preview his new amusement park on an island off Costa Rica.

Jurassic Park 2D

Friday		4:00	
Saturday		4:00	
Sunday		4:00	
Monday & Thursday		4:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Evil Dead

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday & Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Lou Taylor Pucci, Jessica Lucas, Liz Blackmore
Genre: Horror • Rated R

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Host

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday & Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Max Irons, Jake Abel
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Tyler Perry's Temptation

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday & Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Vanessa Williams
Genre: Drama • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday		7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday & Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday		4:25
Saturday		4:25
Sunday		4:25
Monday & Thursday		4:25

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

The Croods 3D

Friday		7:15	
Saturday	1:15	7:15	
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday & Thursday		7:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

The Croods 2D

Friday		4:15	9:30
Saturday		4:15	9:30
Sunday		4:15	
Monday & Tuesday		4:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

Olympus Has Fallen

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday & Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

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They're rolling: Stones add 2 shows to their tour

NEW YORK (AP)—If you're upset that the Rolling Stones won't be coming to your city on their upcoming tour, don't be too stressed—the rockers say more shows may be added.

"Normally when you announce a tour like this, you announce part of it, you leave it to be, you see what happens, you might do a date here and another date there. You don't want to be completely hand fast, so you do leave some dates in between," Mick Jagger said in an interview Thursday. "So we'll see what happens."

The Stones announced this week that they'll kick off their "50 and Counting" tour in Los Angeles; the date will be announced later. The second show is in Oakland, Calif., on May 5. They'll also visit Las Vegas, Toronto, Chicago and Boston, and wrap in Philadelphia on June 18.

On Friday, the band said second shows have been added in Toronto and Chicago.

The announcement came months after the foursome performed a sold-out, five-city stint in New York, New Jersey and London.

Jagger called those shows a test.

"We just said, 'Let's do these five shows before Christmas and see how it goes and see if we enjoy it, see if the audience seems to have a good time, and if that works, then we'll try to see if we'll do more,'" he said. "We still wanted to keep it kind of limited. We didn't want to have that yawning (tour) of hundreds of shows lined up for the next 18 months. I just thought it would be good if we booked a small tour, and then, you know, if we want to do more, we'll do more."

AP

This 2005 file photo, originally supplied by the Rolling Stones, shows the group, from left, Charlie Watts, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, and Ron Wood posing during a photo shoot.

The Stones have at least three days in between tour stops, a sign that more shows may be added. Or the time could be used for rest.

"I think it's a little bit of both," Keith Richards said in a separate interview Thursday. "The band wants to pace themselves, but at the same time ... I guess what's been announced is the bare-bones and we will play it by ear from there."

The Stones' last global tour kicked off in 2005 and wrapped in 2007.

Jagger, 69, said he's getting older—and performing can be tough.

"I just have to train a lot and keep really fit. I want to do these moves, but I can't do them because if I did, I'd probably screw up," he said, laughing. "You just got to do what's within your capabilities. I don't want it to look wrong, so I'm going to stay within my boundaries."

The Stones' recent tour featured special guests such as Bruce Springsteen and Lady Gaga, and there could be more surprises onstage.

"I have a feeling there's more openness about playing it the same way," Richards said. "I can't name names or make promises, but that area of the show is open."

The veteran band, which also includes Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood, will headline the Glastonbury Festival on June 29 and will perform at London's Hyde Park on July 6. Former bandmate Mick Taylor, a member of the Stones from 1969 through 1974, will be a special guest throughout the tour.

'Evil Dead' rises again with $26M box-office stake

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Resurrected demons and dinosaurs are helping to put some life back into the weekend box office.

The demonic horror remake "Evil Dead" debuted at No. 1 with $26 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

In a tight fight for second-place were two holdovers, the animated comedy "The Croods" and the action movie "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," both with an estimated $21.1 million. Final numbers Monday will sort out which movie comes out ahead.

Steven Spielberg's 3-D debut of his dinosaur blockbuster "Jurassic Park" came in fourth with $18.2 million. That's on top of the $357.1 million domestic haul for "Jurassic Park" in its initial run in 1993.

Released by Sony's TriStar Pictures, "Evil Dead" added $4.5 million in 21 overseas markets, giving it a worldwide start of $30.5 million. Shot on a modest budget of $17 million, the movie is well on its way to turning a profit.

The remake was produced by the 1983 original's filmmakers, director Sam Raimi and producer Rob Tapert, and its star, Bruce Campbell. The new "Evil Dead" lays the gore on thickly for the story of a group of friends terrorized and possessed by demons during a trip to a cabin in the woods.

AP

This film image released by Sony-TriStar Pictures shows Jane Levy in a scene from "Evil Dead."

1. "**Evil Dead**," $26 million *($4.5 million international).*
2 (tie). "**The Croods**," $21.1 million *($34.1 million international).*
2 (tie). "**G.I. Joe: Retaliation**," $21.1 million *($40.2 million international).*
4. "**Jurassic Park** 3-D," $18.2 million *($3 million international).*
5. "**Olympus Has Fallen**," $10.04 million.
6. "**Tyler Perry's Temptation**," $10 million.
7. "**Oz the Great and Powerful**," $8.2 million *($13.6 million international).*
8. "**The Host**," $5.2 million *($3.5 million international).*
9. "**The Call**," $3.5 million.
10. "**Admission**," $2.1 million.

"It's one crazy ride, that movie. I have to think Sam Raimi is so proud in remaking this film that it turned out so well," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "It's such a visceral ride, where you're holding on to your seat or holding on to the person next to you."

Paramount's "G.I. Joe" sequel, which had been No. 1 the previous weekend, pushed its domestic total to $86.7 million. The movie also added $40.2 million overseas for an international haul of $145.2 million and a worldwide take of $232 million.

"The Croods," a DreamWorks Animation release distributed by 20th Century Fox, raised its domestic total to $125.8 million after three weekends. Overseas, the movie did an additional $34.1 million to lift its international total to $206.8 million and its worldwide receipts to $333 million.

Universal Pictures' "Jurassic Park" reissue opened in a similar range of other recent blockbuster 3-D releases such as "Titanic" ($17.3 million) and "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace" ($22.4 million).

None of the new movies or holdovers came close to the domestic business being done a year ago by "The Hunger Games," which led over the same weekend in 2012 with $33.1 million in its third weekend. But collectively, Hollywood had a winning lineup of movies that gave revenues a lift from last year.

Ex-porn star Jameson arrested for alleged attack

NEWPORT BEACH, California (AP)—Police say former adult film star Jenna Jameson has been arrested after a report that she attacked someone at a California home.

Jameson

Newport Beach police Lt. Evan Sailor says the alleged victim put Jameson under citizen's arrest until police arrived Saturday night.

The 38-year-old Jameson, born Jenna Marie Massoli, was given a court date to face a misdemeanor battery charge and released on her own recognizance.

In May, Jameson was arrested for drunken driving after hitting a light pole. She pleaded guilty in August and was sentenced to three years' informal probation.

Jameson was among the biggest stars in porn when she left the industry in 2008. An email sent to her company seeking comment was not immediately returned.

Tributes pour in for Spanish filmmaker Bigas Luna

MADRID (AP)—Spaniard Josep Joan Bigas Luna was lauded as a brilliant and "truly special" filmmaker a day after his death, with some of the highest praise coming from actors Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz, two stars whose film careers he launched.

Bigas Luna, 67, died Saturday in northeast Spain after a long battle with cancer.

The filmmaker was regarded as having had an excellent eye for spotting talent and a knack for stimulating on-screen chemistry between actors. His 1992 film "Jamon, Jamon" received unanimous praise as "a classic" in the Spanish press on Sunday,

The director discovered Cruz and Bardem, who married in 2010, as well as a giving early boosts to a host of other now well-known film muses, including Leonor Watling, Angela Molina, Francesca Neri and Valeria Marini.

Many of the roles in his films were explosively steamy, even erotic. Yet they often explored with great insight aspects of modern Spain's quirkiness.

"He was charming, intelligent, ironic, and possessed of an utterly contagious hedonism," said Ferran Mascarell, culture spokesman for the government of Bigas Luna's native Catalan region.

"I don't know where to begin," Bardem said, adding that he owes Bigas Luna "the woman I love," and "a career that I never dreamed I could have."

Bardem's first film role was in Bigas Luna's "The Ages of Lulu" (1990), but it is his role, co-starring with Cruz in "Jamon, Jamon" that many consider one of his most searing and memorable.

He later went on to win an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role as psychopathic assassin Anton Chigurh in Ethan and Joel Coen's "No Country for Old Men" and has also played villain Raoul Silva in "Skyfall," the latest Bond movie.

In a heartfelt statement, Cruz said an early casting for "The Ages of Lulu" changed her life.

"In walked a man with a rascal's face: Bigas Luna," she said. "The first thing he asked me was my age (she was 14). I said I was 17 and he, always very gently and without making me feel too bad, laughed in my face and said: `Well, you won't make this movie, but I'll call for another when you're older.'"

The actress said she was astonished when, three years later, the phone rang and it was Bigas Luna asking her to try out for "Jamon, Jamon."

"When I was with him I felt time stood still," Cruz said. "He was truly special." Bigas Luna died while still working on his latest film, "Segon Origen."

Wesley Snipes leaves US prison after tax sentence

LEWIS RUN, Pennsylvania (AP)—Wesley Snipes has been released from a federal prison after serving time on tax charges.

Snipes was convicted in 2008. He was released Tuesday and placed under home confinement. A Bureau of Corrections spokeswoman said Friday he'll be overseen by the New York Community Corrections Office until July 19.

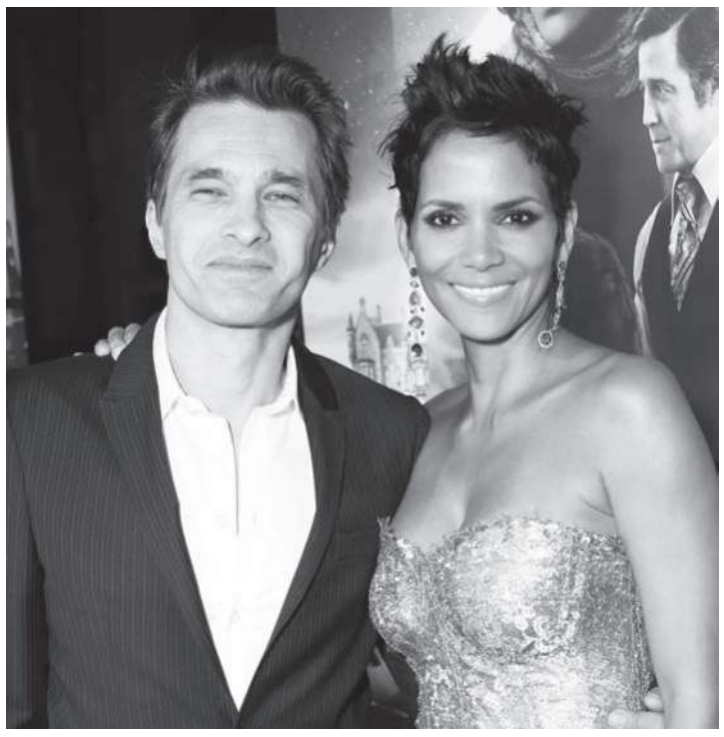
Snipes entered prison in December 2010 to begin a three-year sentence for failure to file income tax returns.

Snipes

Snipes belonged to a group that challenged the government's right to collect taxes. U.S. prosecutors say he failed to file returns for at least a decade and owed millions of dollars in back taxes.

The 50-year-old actor has appeared in dozens of films, including the blockbuster "Blade" trilogy.

Halle Berry, Olivier Martinez expecting a baby



This Oct. 24, 2012 file photo shows actors Olivier Martinez, left, and Halle Berry at the Los Angeles premiere of Berry's film, "Cloud Atlas," in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Halle Berry is pregnant.

A representative for the 46-year-old actress confirms that Berry and her fiance, Olivier Martinez, are expecting their first child together.

Publicist Meredith O'Sullivan Wasson offered no other details.

Berry and Martinez announced their engagement last year. Berry has a daughter with her ex-boyfriend, Gabriel Aubry. The two settled their custody battle over the 5-year-old in November.

This is the first child for Martinez.

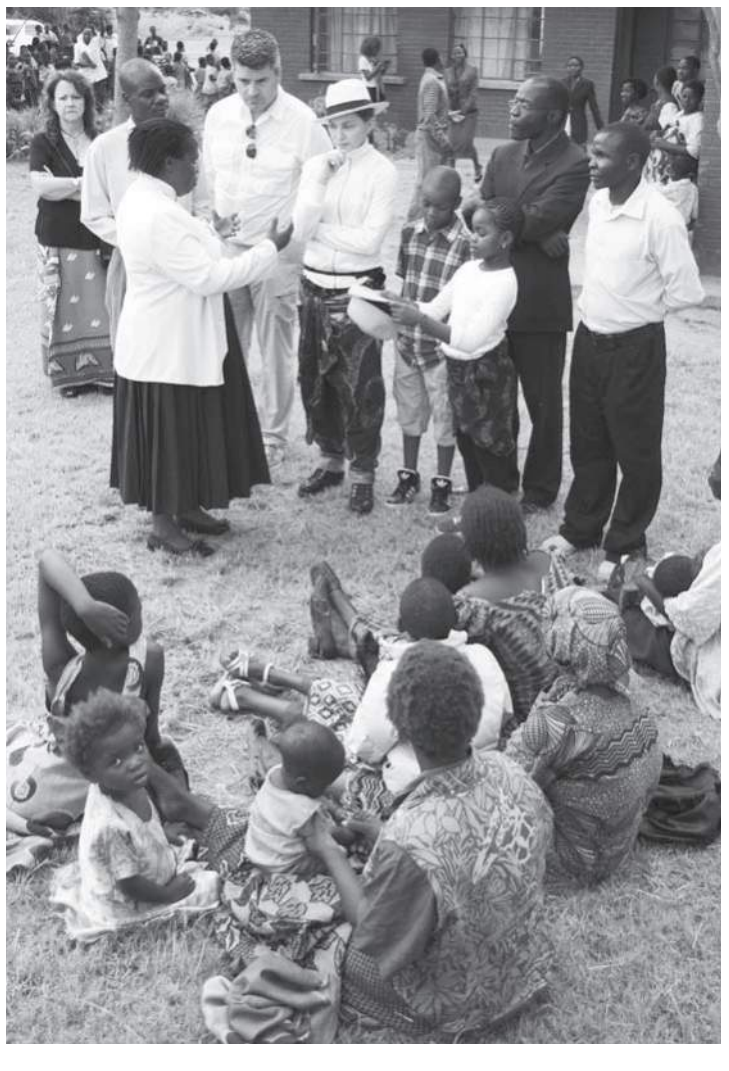
Madonna leaves Malawi after visits to schools

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—Madonna has left Malawi after visiting the projects she has helped support through her Raising Malawi charity.

The pop diva and her four children arrived in the southern African country Monday and left Saturday. Madonna visited the 10 school blocks that her charity has helped build or renovate in collaboration with BuildOn.

The singer also visited a hospital's pediatric ward and several orphanages, including the Home of Hope, where she adopted David Banda in 2006. She also adopted Mercy James from Malawi in 2009.

Madonna initially planned to build a $15 million 500-bed Raising Malawi Academy for girls, before changing plans to help fund several community schools, which led to some controversy in Malawi. She also closed the Malawi office of Raising Malawi and fired staff for misappropriating funds.



US performer Madonna, centre, visits the Mphandura orpahange near Lilongwe, Malawi Friday April 5, 2013.

AP

Bisexual woman should show her rainbow colors

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to your answer to "Bi in the Deep South" (Jan. 2), the woman who is happily married to a man, but who now realizes she is bisexual and wants to come out.

My wife is an out bisexual woman. You were correct that it is possible to be bisexual without having acted on it, as people are not defined solely by the partner they have. Precisely for that reason, some individuals feel that "bisexual" is who they are, and to omit it feels like living a lie.

The notion that stating one's bisexuality is "advertising that one is available" is why my wife chose to come out—to combat this misconception. Just as straights can be attracted to people of the opposite sex besides their spouse, so might a coupled bisexual person be attracted to other individuals of both genders. Bisexuals, however, are no more likely to ACT on this attraction than anyone else.

"Bi" should just be herself and tell anyone who needs to know when she feels comfortable telling them. And you're right, Abby—she should tell her husband first. But if her marriage is as strong and happy as she indicated, I'm pretty sure he already knows. I know I did.

JON IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR JON: Thank you for writing. The comments I received about that letter were passionate and informed:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Bisexual women and men who begin identifying and clarifying their sexual identities in the context of committed relationships need spaces where they can sort through their understandings of themselves.

A support group that is either counselor- or peer-led, in-person or online, can be an important resource to help "Bi in the Deep South" recognize that others have also experienced what she is going through and she can learn from them. She will see there is a place of support and encouragement where it's OK to talk about what bisexuality means for her. Being part of such a group can be particularly liberating.

LICENSED COUNSELOR, AUSTIN, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: If "Bi in the Deep South" is comfortable enough with who she is to tell someone, she should not be advised to stay in the closet to any degree. She has the right to be honest with herself and her family and not go through life hiding.

As for posting one's sexual orientation on social media profiles, doing so does not change your relationship status. You can be both "in a committed relationship" AND "bisexual." They are not mutually exclusive.

BI IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

DEAR ABBY: There is real power in coming out, in voicing your authentic self. There is an emotional cost to remaining silent. Many who do so feel like they are allowing others to assume things about them that are just not true.

I speak from personal experience. I was silent for five years, and the day I started talking about the fact that I am bisexual, I felt as though a huge weight had been lifted off me.

I hope "Bi in the Deep South" will find the courage to come out and fly her rainbow colors. Although she may have to correct some people's misconceptions of what it means to identify as bisexual, she will feel much better.

ROBYN IN MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

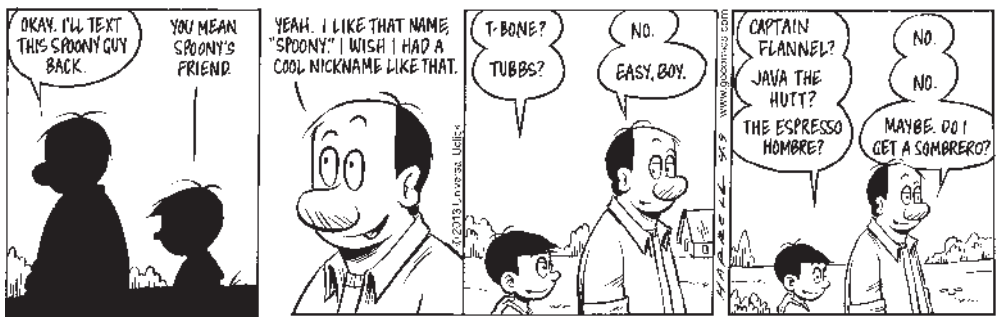
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

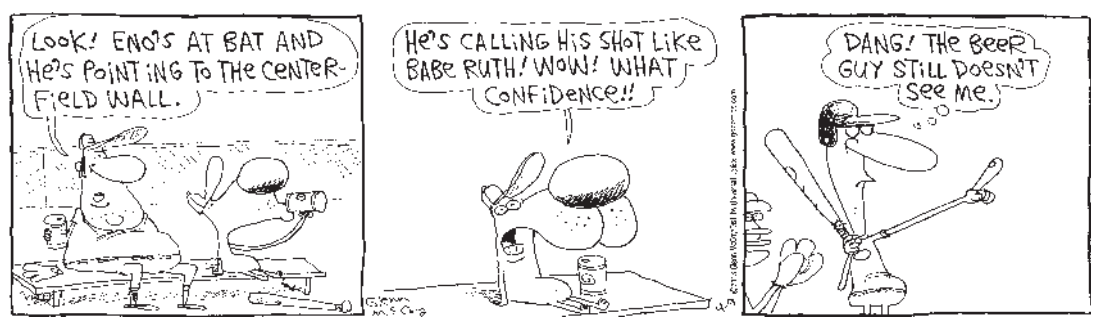
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LOOK! ENO'S AT BAT AND HE'S POINTING TO THE CENTER-FIELD WALL.
HE'S CALLING HIS SHOT LIKE BABE RUTH! WOW! WHAT CONFIDENCE!!
DANG! THE BEER GUY STILL DOESN'T SEE ME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

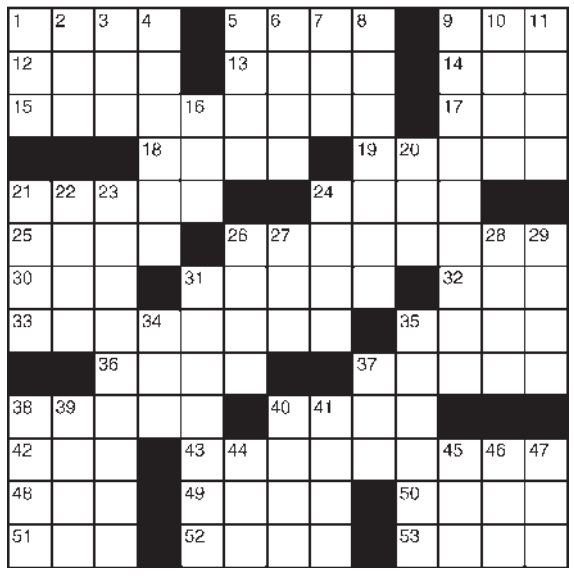
ACROSS
1 Summit
5 "— and Circumstance"
9 Speed stat
12 Reedy
13 Smell
14 Exist
15 Kitchen shredder/slicer
17 Pen point
18 See 35-Down
19 Skiers' hotel
21 Cripples
24 Challenge
25 "Sad to say ..."
26 Greek biographer
30 Charged bit
31 Rid of rime
32 Whopper
33 Big star
35 Alpha follower
36 Has a bug
37 Vestibule
38 Starbucks order
40 Many millennia
42 Id counterpart
43 Some baboons
48 Distant
49 Behave
50 Tide type
51 Attempt
52 Vicinity
53 Slightly tainted

DOWN
1 PIN requester
2 Dance syllable?
3 60 sec.
4 Provides
5 Horseback game
6 Valhalla VIP
7 Calendar abbr.
8 Church dignitary
9 "Rebecca" setting
10 Bluenose
11 Cupbearing Greek goddess
16 Chances, for short
20 Manmouse link
21 Den
22 Lotion additive
23 Required
24 Channel
26 Pod group
27 Basketball's Jeremy
28 Give as an example
29 Listen to
31 Predicament
34 "Scram!"
35 With 18-Across, studying hard
37 Supporting
38 Departed
39 Culture medium
40 Oscar winner Hathaway
41 Icelandic epic
44 Melody
45 Meadow
46 Run from the cops
47 James Bond, e.g.

Solution time: 21 mins.

I	N	C	A	■	A	M	P	■	C	E	M	S
T	E	R	R	A	R	I	A	■	A	T	O	P
S	T	U	R	G	E	O	N	■	L	A	V	A
■	■	■	A	H	A	■	T	A	L	L	E	R
C	H	I	N	A	■	I	S	T	O	■	■	■
R	U	N	T	■	S	T	U	M	P	F	R	■
Y	E	S	■	A	N	A	I	S	■	P	H	I
■	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	■	T	E	E	N
■	■	■	G	O	A	D	■	W	R	F	A	K
U	N	M	A	S	K	■	L	E	I	■	■	■
S	O	O	N	■	S	T	U	B	B	O	R	N
F	G	A	D	■	B	A	R	B	F	C	U	F
R	O	N	A	■	Y	U	K	■	S	T	E	W

Yesterday's answer 4-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elle Fanning, 15; Kristen Stewart, 23; Leighton Meester, 27; Dennis Quaid, 59

Happy Birthday: Pump things up a bit. Set your goals and make them happen. Change will be required, but impatience and impulse must be controlled. Love is on the rise, and letting your passion lead the way mentally, physically and emotionally will help you set a standard for anyone wishing to engage in a personal or professional relationship with you. Your numbers are 8, 13, 16, 23, 28, 36, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You have lots to offer and will be able to move into a leadership position if you step up and show your skills. Don't let emotions or nervousness stand between you and getting ahead. Staying active will encourage meeting new people. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Scrutinize your position and what is required to bypass some of the hurdles you've been facing personally and professionally. Don't let someone's uncertainty unnerve you. Leap into the forefront because you want to, not because you are being pressured. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Use your ability to express your concern to make reforms. Take a position of leadership even if a project seems daunting. A partnership will prove to be exactly what you need in order to achieve your personal or professional goals. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be taken advantage of if you are too intent on taking over. Sit back and let others pay the price. You can be responsible and maintain your freedom to manage and take care of what you consider to be most important. Delegate wisely. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Enjoy friends, lovers and pastimes. Make changes that will improve your daily routine and motivate you to get involved in exciting adventures. Expanding your friendships and updating your look and your life will revitalize you. Proceed with passion. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Avoid getting involved in a financial deal that makes you uncomfortable. Donations and handouts must be kept to a minimum. Children, friends, lovers and even older relatives can cost you if you can't say no. Discipline will be your salvation. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get everyone around you fired up and eager to help. You won't please everyone, but as long as you get the momentum flowing, you stand a good chance of reaching your goals. Love is on the rise and celebrations will be exhilarating. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Listen carefully and let your intuition guide you. Don't fold under pressure or let someone's anxiety drag you down. Express your feelings with unfiltered truth and protect what you have worked hard to achieve. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Choose what and who you enjoy the most to be in your future. Love and romance along with socializing and entertainment should be high on your list. A personal update will bring in compliments that will help build your confidence. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't share your thoughts or your plans. You'll face opposition that leads to setbacks if you are not discreet. A friendship will face turbulence due to a difference of opinion. Put more time and effort into developing and securing your professional goals. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You've got more going for you than you realize. Share your thoughts and explore unusual ways to utilize your skills, talents and expertise. Friendships are on the rise, and reuniting with people from your past will be a pleasant surprise. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Test the people around you. Ask questions and determine if and how others can contribute to your plans. Refuse to be pushed into making a premature decision. Flesh out your ideas and take care of important relationships. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have courage and charisma. You are aggressive and a humanitarian.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5		7			
	3	9				4	5	
	2		3		6		8	
9		8				2		1
				1				
3		2				6		7
	7		2		5		6	
	8	4				5	1	
			1		4			

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	3	8	9	7	6	2	1
8	1	6	2	4	5	9	3	7
9	2	7	3	6	1	4	5	8
1	6	5	4	8	2	7	9	3
3	9	8	7	5	6	1	4	2
2	7	4	9	1	3	5	8	6
4	3	2	6	7	9	8	1	5
6	5	9	1	3	8	2	7	4
7	8	1	5	2	4	3	6	9

Difficulty Level ★ 4/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET Sol.: 9 letters

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

150TH ANNIVERSARY THE LONDON METROPOLITAN RAILWAY

E	T	E	U	S	T	O	N	E	W	R	O	A	D	C
H	T	F	P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	S	C	O
N	A	A	I	N	N	E	R	C	I	R	C	L	E	M
O	M	R	G	W	A	X	E	S	E	L	D	D	I	M
I	R	R	R	R	S	C	O	A	C	H	N	G	E	E
T	N	I	B	O	O	K	S	K	T	Ⓡ	U	N	V	M
A	O	N	R	Y	W	O	I	I	D	Ⓘ	O	I	I	O
T	T	G	O	A	I	N	M	I	C	Ⓓ	R	S	T	R
S	G	D	R	L	G	S	S	H	N	Ⓔ	G	S	O	A
T	N	O	T	S	R	T	I	O	A	G	R	O	M	T
R	I	N	E	E	R	L	M	B	A	K	E	R	O	E
E	D	S	M	I	T	H	F	I	E	L	D	C	C	A
T	D	M	C	E	C	L	O	N	D	O	N	E	O	S
C	A	T	R	I	E	G	D	I	R	B	U	I	L	T
H	P	N	R	E	V	O	C	D	N	A	T	U	C	S

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Baker, Books, Bridge, Built, Chiltern, Coach, Commemorate, Crossing, Cut and Cover, District, East, Euston, Farringdon, Hammersmith, Harrow, Inner Circle, Kings, Locomotive, London, Maps, Metro, Middlesex, Moorgate, New Road, Paddington, Passengers, Richmond, Ride, Royals, Smithfield, Station, Stretch, Swift, Underground

Yesterday's Answer: Three Sisters

THE WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $11.95 each plus $3.95 postage and handling (total $15.90) to: Universal Uclick, Dept. WW, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Credit card orders call 1-800-591-4911. Orders must ship to addresses in the United States, including Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Alexander Inc. is looking for an Accountant. Must have at least 5 years of experience. Knowledge in QuickBooks & MS Excel is an advantage. Call 234-5117.

1-Data Encoder/Office Clerk. Salary $5.55p/h. 2-3 yrs exp. Email resume to LP Accounting at loidapark@yahoo.com.

Wanted: 1 Photographer w/ 2 years experience in digital camera & computer design. Send resume to dipoto@naver.com

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Unit approximately 600sq.ft. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Xue, Jianjun dba Beauty Salon (HOLLYWOOD NAIL ART)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Nail Designer. Salary $5.55 p/h. 5 years working experience in Nail Art. Chinese, Japanese, and Korean speaking preferred.

Interested U.S. Citizen applicants, please call 285-8629

DMY Realty and Management needs....

(2) General Building Maintenance Worker

Starting Salary $6.00/hr.
2 to 4 years work experience in carpentry, plumbing, masonry & electrical w/ references.
Only U.S. qualified workers need apply.

Interested applicants may submit their resume at dmyram.saipan@gmail.com

OKADA CORPORATION:

OPERATIONS MANAGER/HEAD CHEF (1): Be able to handle business operations as well as kitchen duties to ensure the business efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the business to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must be passionate about food and have broad knowledge in Japanese cuisine centering on Sushi, Soba, Tempura as well as other cultural dishes and different food preparations. Have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-5 year experience. For more information and inquires please come to our office at:

Okada Corporation dba: Okadaya
1F Joeten Commercial Building
Susupe, Saipan

Please no phone calls.
Must apply in person.

JOSEPH C. REYES dba:
Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital
Job Vacancy Announcement

Maintenance Worker (3)

Qualifications:

- At least High School graduate or equivalent with 3 years experience required.
- Must know how to do plumbing, mechanical, electrical, carpentry, masonry work.
- Must know how to operate different kinds of machines and equipments.
- Must be able to work as full time with flexible working hours and during nights or weekends.

Applicants may submit resume to Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital's office in Garapan. Phone 233-5367.

TC Catering

Job Vacancy Announcement

1-Accountant/Bookkeeper. Salary $5.55 p/h. Accounting Graduate or 4 years College from a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. 5 years or more work experience. Able to prepare payroll, CNMI & Federal Taxes, and Bank Reconciliation. Must have knowledge in Peachtree Accounting System and Microsoft applications.

1-Cook. Salary $5.55 p/h. 5 years working experience required. Must have knowledge in Food Processing and able to cook different varieties of International Cuisine. Knowledge in food safety. Able to work flexible hours, days, holidays and weekends.

Interested applicants may send resume to TC Catering at P.O. Box 8070 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950

GPPC, INC.

(2) Construction Manager

Rate : $2,100.00 to $ 2,650.00 per month

Must be a college graduate or minimum 5 year's experience as Construction Manager. With knowledge how to plan, direct, or coordinate, usually through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation. Includes managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

The above position will be closed on April 12, 2013. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG has an opening for the following:

- Admin Assistant
- Cook
- Cook Helper

Interested individuals may pick up an application in the guard station at the front gate.

We are located at Tun Herman pan Road and situated between the American Red Cross and the Historic Prevention Office.

AQUARIUS BEACH TOWER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENTS

Front Desk Clerk

2 years Hotel Front Desk experience preferred. Responsible for guest check-in/out, shift cash/credit balancing. Must be able to work all shifts and provide a criminal background check. Computer experience necessary. Applications can be picked up at the Aquarius Beach Tower.

Applications accepted until Thursday, April 11, 2013.

No phone calls please.

WHATZIT Solution: Fall over backwards

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

FALL
DRAW
DRAW

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Clippers beat Lakers to win division title

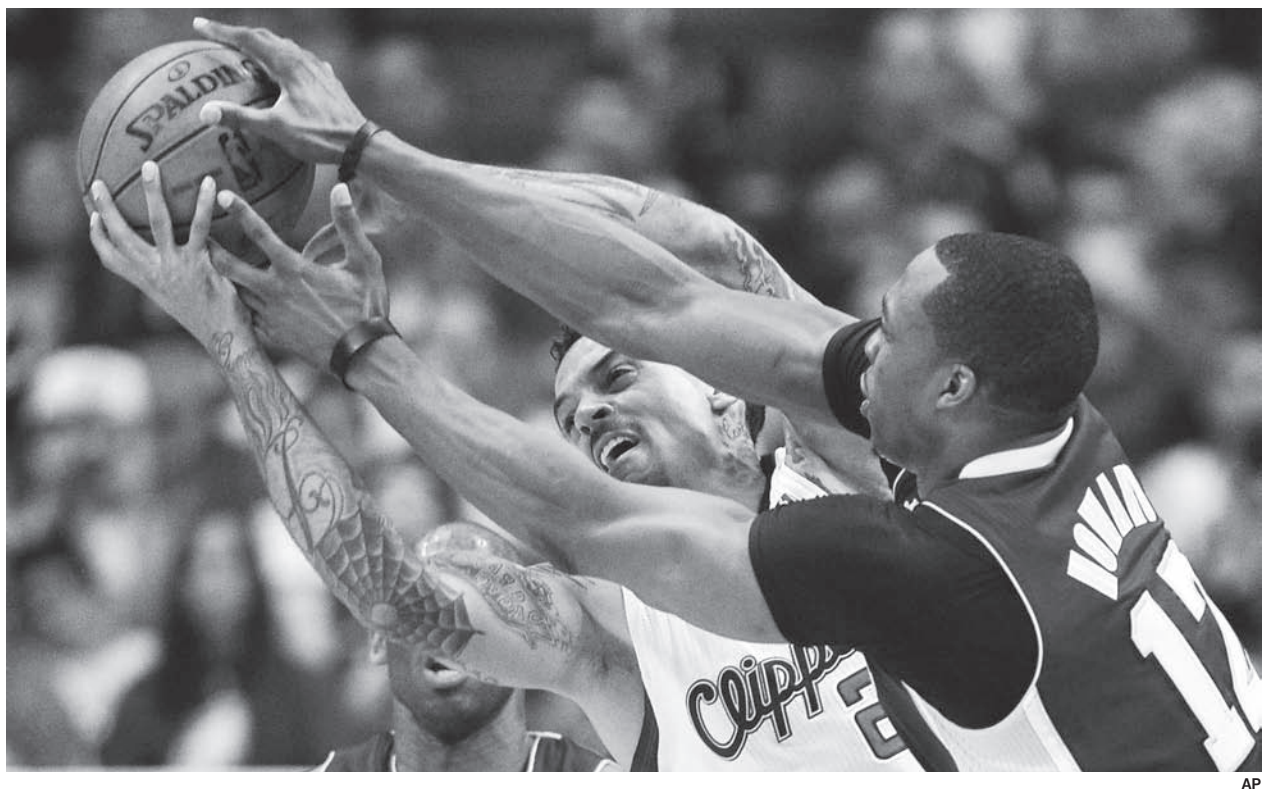
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Griffin had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and the playoff-bound Clippers beat the Lakers to clinch their first Pacific Division title in franchise history against a team that has long overshadowed them.

Chris Paul added 24 points and 12 assists in helping the Clippers sweep the Lakers 4-0 for the first time since Donald Sterling bought the team in 1981. The 1974-75 team, known as the Buffalo Braves, had the franchise's only other sweep of the Lakers.

Fans chanted, "Sweep! Sweep!" in the closing seconds.

Jamal Crawford had 20 points off the bench, DeAndre Jordan had 13 rebounds and Caron Butler scored 14 points.

Dwight Howard scored 25 points, including 9 of 13 free throws, for the Lakers, who played without injured starters Steve Nash and Metta World Peace. Kobe Bryant added 25 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, and Pau Gasol had 12 points and 13 rebounds as the Lakers' three-game winning streak ended.



AP

Los Angeles Clippers forward Matt Barnes, left, and Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard go after a rebound during the second half of their NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 7, 2013, in Los Angeles. The Clippers won, 109-95.

Knicks 125, Thunder 120

In Oklahoma, Carmelo Anthony had 36 points and 12 rebounds, J.R. Smith hit a pair of shot-clock beaters in the final 2 minutes and the New York Knicks beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 125-120 on Sunday for their 12th straight win.

Smith connected on a 23-foot jumper from the right wing as the 24-second clock expired to put New York up 117-113 with 1:30 to play, then swished a 3-pointer from beyond the 3-point line with 56.8 seconds left that all but sealed New York's 50th win of the season.

It's the first time the Knicks have reached the landmark in 13 years.

Russell Westbrook had 37 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists for Oklahoma City, which fell a game behind San Antonio for first place in the West with five games left.

Jazz 97, Warriors 90

In Oakland, Mo Williams scored 25 points, Al Jefferson added 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Utah regained the Western Conference's final playoff position by holding off Golden State.

Williams made a 3-pointer with 13.4 seconds remaining to put Utah ahead by six and spoil Golden State's shot to clinch a playoff berth in front of a sell-out crowd of 19,596. The Jazz moved a half-game ahead of the Los Angeles Lakers for the eighth seed.

Stephen Curry scored 17 of his 22 points in the first half and Klay Thompson had 20 points for the Warriors, who were trying to clinch a postseason spot for the first time since 2007 and just the second in 19 years.

Celtics 107, Wizards 96

In Boston, Brandon Bass scored 20 points and Boston Celtics, helped by the return of Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce, beat Washington.

Bass missed his season high by just two points and led the Celtics with eight points in the third quarter, when they hit 75 percent of their shots, outscored Washington 31-19 and stretched a 56-52 halftime lead to 87-71.

They led by at least 10 points the rest of the way to get just their fourth win in 12 games.

Garnett had 12 points and six rebounds in 24 minutes after missing eight games with an inflamed left ankle. Pierce finished with 15 points in 30 minutes after missing Friday night's 97-91 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers with a sore left ankle.

Pistons 99, Bulls 85

In Michigan, Brandon Knight scored 20 points to help Detroit snap an 18-game losing streak against Chicago.

Jonas Jerebko added 17 points and a season-high nine rebounds for the Pistons, who ended an eight-game home skid.

The Bulls led by as many as 11 points in the first quarter but Detroit gradually caught up and took the lead in the second after starting the period on a 12-4 run.

Carlos Boozer had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the postseason-bound Bulls, who are fighting to secure the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference.

Grizzlies 89, Kings 87

In Sacramento, Mike Conley scored 25 points, making the go-ahead basket with 30 seconds left and leading Memphis over struggling Sacramento.

Memphis made some big plays in the game's final minute to get the victory, its fifth in six games. The win gave the Grizzlies a four-game sweep of the Kings for the first time in franchise history.

Quincey Pondexter scored 17 points and Marc Gasol had 15 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks for the Grizzlies. Tony Allen scored 12 points.

DeMarcus Cousins had 22 points and nine rebounds for the Kings, who have dropped four straight.

Mavericks 96, Trail Blazers 91

In Portland, Chris Kaman scored a season-high 26 points and Dallas boosted its faint playoff hopes by beating slumping Portland.

Kaman added 11 rebounds for the Mavericks, who were 2 1/2 games back of Utah for the eighth and final spot in the Western Conference, and two games behind the Lakers. Dallas (38-39) has just five games left, but four of those are at home.

The Mavs led by as many as 26 points, but the Blazers closed the gap in the fourth quarter - even after sitting most of their starters.

Hornets 95, Suns 92

In Phoenix, Anthony Davis scored 20 points, Eric Gordon and Ryan Anderson added 17 apiece and New Orleans handed Phoenix its franchise-record seventh consecutive home loss.

Luis Scola scored 17 for the Suns, losers of a season-worst nine straight overall and 15 of their last 17. Markieff Morris and Jared Dudley scored 15 apiece for Phoenix.

The Suns, down by 16 with nine minutes to play, cut it to 85-82 on Goran Dragic's two free throws with 3:03 left. But Anderson's rebound basket and two free throws by Davis boosted it to 89-82 and the Hornets held on from there.

Cavaliers 91, Magic 85

In Cleveland, Alonzo Gee scored 19 points and Cleveland rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Orlando.

Tristan Thompson had 15 points and 16 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who have won two in a row for the first time since Feb. 26-27.

Cleveland, which broke a season-high, 10-game losing streak Friday in Boston, trailed by seven points late in the third quarter, but took the lead for good early in the fourth and made clutch plays down the stretch.

Louisville, Michigan escape shadows at Final Four

ATLANTA (AP)—The hoops teams at Louisville and Michigan are used to being overlooked.

The Cardinals may be a national powerhouse, but they're still considered second fiddle in their own state. The Kentucky Wildcats are the blue bloods of the bluegrass, while Louisville settles for being viewed as more of a blue-collar school.

The Michigan basketball team knows what that's like. Football rules on the Wolverines' campus - rightly so, said Tim Hardaway Jr., given that program's long, storied history.

"We still have a ways to go," said Hardaway, Michigan's junior guard. "Football has a lot more national championships than we do."

Well, it's kind of hard to overlook either team now.

Louisville and Michigan will meet Monday night in the NCAA championship game.

The Cardinals (34-5) have lived up to their billing as the tournament's top overall seed, blowing through their first four opponents before rallying from a dozen points down in the second half to beat surprising Wichita State 72-68 in the national semifinals.

It's been quite a run for the Louisville athletic program, in general. The women's basketball team also reached the Final Four, while the football team won a Big East title and stunned Florida in the Sugar Bowl.

All the while, they're battling with Kentucky for the state's affections.

"We're not a who's who like Harvard and Yale in the alumni world," coach Rick Pitino said Sunday. "We're a blue-collar school that supports each other. One of the coolest places I've ever worked."

Pitino should know. He also worked at Kentucky, leading the Wildcats to a national title in 1996.

Now, he's got a chance to become the first coach to win championships at two schools.

"I haven't thought about it for one second," insisted Pitino, already the first coach to guide three schools to the Final Four. "We have built a brand on Louisville first. Everything we do is about the team, about the family. I'd be a total hypocrite if I said (winning another title is) really important. It really is not important. I want to win because I'm part of this team. That's it."

Football may come first at Michigan (31-7), but the Wolverines haven't exactly been pushovers on the hardwood.

They won a national title in 1989, beating Seton Hall in overtime, and they've lost three other times in the championship. The school is best known for the Fab Five, that group of five stellar recruits who led Michigan to back-to-back final appearances in 1992 and `93.

This team is cut from the same mold, with three freshmen starters and two other first-year players who made big contributions in a semifinal victory over Syracuse.

"The Fab Five was a great team. I mean, a really great team," said freshman guard Caris LeVert, who came off the bench to score eight points against the Orange. "They did some great things for our school."

But these guys can do something the Fab Five never did - win it all.

"Just making it to the Final Four, we are going to hang up a banner in the Crisler Center," said another freshman, Glenn Robinson III. "But we aren't done. Having the chance to hang another one up for a national championship ... is all kind of surreal to us."

Both teams got to this point with crucial assists from the backups.

LeVert and Spike Albrecht—yep, another freshman—both hit a pair of 3-pointers in Michigan's semifinal win, points that were desperately needed with player of the year Trey Burke struggling through a brutal night. The sophomore guard made only 1-of-8 shots and finished with seven points, just the second time this season he's been held in single digits.

Burke said he'll gladly hand off the scoring duties to someone else again Monday if the Cardinals take a similar approach to Syracuse.

"Pretty much every time I got the ball, I had two people in my face," he said. "I tried not to force anything, but I probably forced two or three shots. That 3 I hit (from way out and his only basket of the game) wasn't a good shot. But I try not to force things and just look for different ways to find the open man."

Louisville, inspired by the gruesome injury to Kevin Ware but needing others to step up while he's down, got an even bigger contribution off the bench than Michigan.

Luke Hancock scored 20 points. Walk-on Tim Henderson, moving up in the rotation because of Ware's broken leg, knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers that turned the momentum when it looked as though Wichita State might pull off another shocker.

There's always a chance for the more obscure players to step up on the biggest stages.

"Those guys, not that you don't pay attention to them, but your strategy is not toward them." Pitino said. "We're all trying to stop the great players defensively, choreograph our defensive plan to stop the great players."

But there's no doubt that Michigan needs Burke to have a much better game, especially against Louisville fearsome press, just as the Cardinals will be counting on Russ Smith to lead the way. He scored 21 points in the semifinals despite a woeful night at the foul line.

Smith is on the verge of completing quite a journey, considering it looked for a while like he might not even finish his career with the Cardinals. Unhappy with his playing time and constantly sparring with Pitino, the now-junior guard considered transferring after his freshman season.

Sabathia shuts down Tigers in Yanks' second win

DETROIT (AP) — CC Sabathia did his part to help the New York Yankees close a second straight series with a sweep-avoiding win.

Sabathia pitched seven scoreless innings and Jayson Nix homered off Justin Verlander in the three-run second, lifting New York to a 7-0 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Sunday.

''You always want to avoid a sweep and finish a series well,'' Sabathia said. ''It felt good to get a win.''

Victories have been rare so far this year for the banged-up Yankees.

New York (2-4) needed to beat the Tigers to avoid dropping to its worst six-game record since starting the 1989 season 1-7.

''The only must-win you need is when you're about to be eliminated,'' Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Sabathia (1-1) gave up four hits and three walks while striking out four in 114 pitches, bouncing back from a dreadful opening-day start.

''He's one of the better pitchers in baseball and he showed that,'' Tigers manager Jim Leyland said.

Red Sox 13, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Will Middlebrooks hit three home runs, two off NL Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey, and the Boston Red Sox routed the Toronto Blue Jays 13-0 Sunday.

Middlebrooks went 4 for 5 with four RBIs. He hit a two-run shot to right in the first inning and a solo drive into the second deck in left in the fifth off Dickey. He connected again off Dave Bush with a leadoff longball to left in the seventh, the first three homer game of his career.

Mike Napoli added a two-run shot, and Jacoby Ellsbury and Daniel Nava also went deep as the Red Sox connected for six homers.

Dickey (0-2) allowed eight runs—seven earned—and 10 hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Rangers 7, Angels 3

In Arlington, Texas clinched its three-game home-opening series even with Yu Darvish being far from perfect.

Lance Berkman, David Murphy and Ian Kinsler homered for Texas in a victory over Josh Hamilton and the AL West rival Los Angeles.

Darvish (2-0) came within one out of a perfect game in his first start five days earlier at Houston, but trailed the Angels 2-0 only five batters into his 2013 debut.

After Darvish walked leadoff hitter Mike Trout, hit Erick Aybar on the foot and then walked Albert Pujols, a run scored on Hamilton's double-play grounder. Mark Trumbo's RBI single quickly made it 2-0.

Twins 4, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Aaron Hicks ended a 0-for-13 skid with a tiebreaking RBI single in a two-run seventh inning, rallying the Twins past the Orioles.

J.J. Hardy homered for the Orioles, who dropped the final two games of the weekend set. It was their first series loss to the Twins since July 2010.

Trailing 3-2, the Twins started their comeback when Jason Hammel (1-1) plunked Trevor Plouffe on the left elbow leading off the seventh.

Anthony Swarzak (1-0), activated from the disabled list before the game after missing time with broken ribs, pitched 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief.

Indians 13, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Mark Reynolds and Lonnie Chisenhall hit three-run homers off AL Cy Young Award winner David Price, Justin Masterson pitched seven strong inning and the Indians hammered the Rays. Reynolds homered twice. Carlos Santana had a career-high five hits, including a home run off Fernando Rodney and a pair of doubles. Michael Bourn also homered for the Indians.

Price (0-1) gave up eight runs, 10 hits and three walks in five innings. He had been 5-0 with a 1.64 ERA in six career starts against Cleveland.

Masterson (2-0) allowed two hits against a team that's often tagged him. He was 1-7 with a 7.74 ERA in his previous 13 games against Tampa Bay.

Athletics 9, Astros 3

In Houston, Brett Anderson struck out 10 more Houston batters and the Athletics backed him with three home runs for win and a three-game sweep of the Astros.

Coco Crisp homered for the third straight day, Jed Lowrie again connected against his former team and Chris Young homered in his hometown. The A's sent Houston to its fifth straight loss.

Anderson (1-1) and the A's bullpen combined for 14 strikeouts. The Astros' 74 strikeouts through the first six games are the most in major league history since 1921, STATS said.

White Sox 4, Mariners 3, 10 innings

In Chicago, Dayan Viciedo hit a solo home run with one out in the 10th inning Sunday, lifting the Chicago White Sox over the Mariners 4-3.

Viciedo hit the first game-ending homer of his career, connecting against Kameron Loe (1-1).

Alex Rios homered in his career-best third straight game and Adam Dunn also homered for Chicago.

Addison Reed (1-0) pitched a scoreless 10th.

Cardinals 14, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Matt Cain became the first Giants pitcher to allow nine runs in an inning since 1902 when Matt Carpenter and the St. Louis Cardinals tagged him Sunday in a 14-3 romp over San Francisco.

The Cardinals chased Cain (0-1) while scoring nine times in the fourth inning. The last two runs came home on Carlos Beltran's single off reliever Jose Mijares.

According to research by the Elias Sports Bureau provided by the team, Cain was the first Giants pitcher to give up so many runs in a single inning since John Cronin on Sept. 27, 1902, in the second game of New York's doubleheader against Brooklyn.

Adam Wainwright (1-1) pitched seven innings, giving up two runs on seven hits for his first win since signing a rich new contract at the end of spring training.

Braves 5, Cubs 1

In Atlanta, Tim Hudson pitched six-plus strong innings and added an RBI and Ramiro Pena hit a two-run single to help the Braves beat the Cubs.

The three-game sweep ended a 5-1 homestand for Atlanta, which got a solo homer from Dan Uggla in the eighth off Hisanori Takahashi.

Hudson (1-0) allowed three hits, one run and two walks in 6 2-3 innings. He struck out seven while improving to 3-1 in seven career starts against the Cubs with a 3.12 ERA.

Jeff Samardzija (1-1) set a career high with 13 strikeouts, but gave up four hits, four runs and four walks in 5 2-3 innings.

Mets 4, Marlins 3

In New York, Marlon Byrd grounded a two-run single just inside third base in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Mets a victory over the Marlins.

Daniel Murphy homered and Anthony Recker had a run-scoring double for the Mets, who spoiled an impressive major league debut by prized Miami pitching prospect Jose Fernandez.

Justin Ruggiano, Chris Valaika and Donovan Solano (three hits) each had an RBI double off substitute starter Aaron Laffey to give the Marlins an early 3-0 cushion. But closer Steve Cishek (0-1) was unable to hold a one-run lead in the ninth, and Miami dropped to 1-5 heading into its home opener Monday night against Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 8, Brewers 7, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Eric Hinske belted a long two-run homer in the 11th inning and the Diamondbacks beat the Brewers to complete a three-game series sweep.

With Cliff Pennington aboard following a leadoff double, Hinske drove a 1-2 pitch from John Axford (0-1) onto the concourse beyond the wall in center field. Hinske raised his right arm as he rounded second with his eighth career pinch-hit homer.

Tony Sipp (1-0) struck out two in a perfect 10th inning and Heath Bell held on for his first save after J.J. Putz blew an opportunity in the ninth.

Rockies 9, Padres 1

In Denver, Dexter Fowler thought he was hit on the right foot in the batter's box, only the plate umpire didn't see it that way.

No big deal. On the very next pitch, Fowler managed to get the Colorado Rockies started on the right foot.

Fowler hit a two-run homer in the first inning and Jhoulys Chacin pitched effectively into the seventh, helping the Rockies to a 9-1 win over San Diego on Sunday for their first series sweep of the Padres at Coors Field in 10 years.

Wilin Rosario later broke open a tight game with a three-run homer as the Rockies improved to 5-1, their best start since 1995 when the Blake Street Bombers began 7-1.

Royals 9, Phillies 8

In Philadelphia, Billy Butler hit a grand slam that was confirmed by video review and tied a Royals franchise record with seven RBIs, and Kansas City held on for a 9-8 win over the Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday.

Butler's fifth-inning homer, the first slam of his career and the first ever allowed by Philadelphia left-hander Cole Hamels, put Kansas City ahead 6-4.

James Shields (1-1), acquired in an offseason trade with Tampa Bay, earned his first victory as a Royal. The right-hander gave up hits to five of the first six batters in a four-run first inning, but settled down to blank the Phillies for the next five innings on five hits while striking out eight and walking none.

Dodgers 6, Pirates 2

In Los Angeles, Hyun-Jin Ryu is going to enjoy pitching for a team with the menacing lineup the Los Angeles Dodgers possess, and the hitters have become equally confident with the rotation that's backing them up.

The South Korean earned his first major league victory, shrugging off a two-run homer in the first inning by Andrew McCutchen and pitching the Dodgers past the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-2 Sunday for a three-game sweep. Adrian Gonzalez drove in four runs with three hits and Justin Sellers homered for Los Angeles.

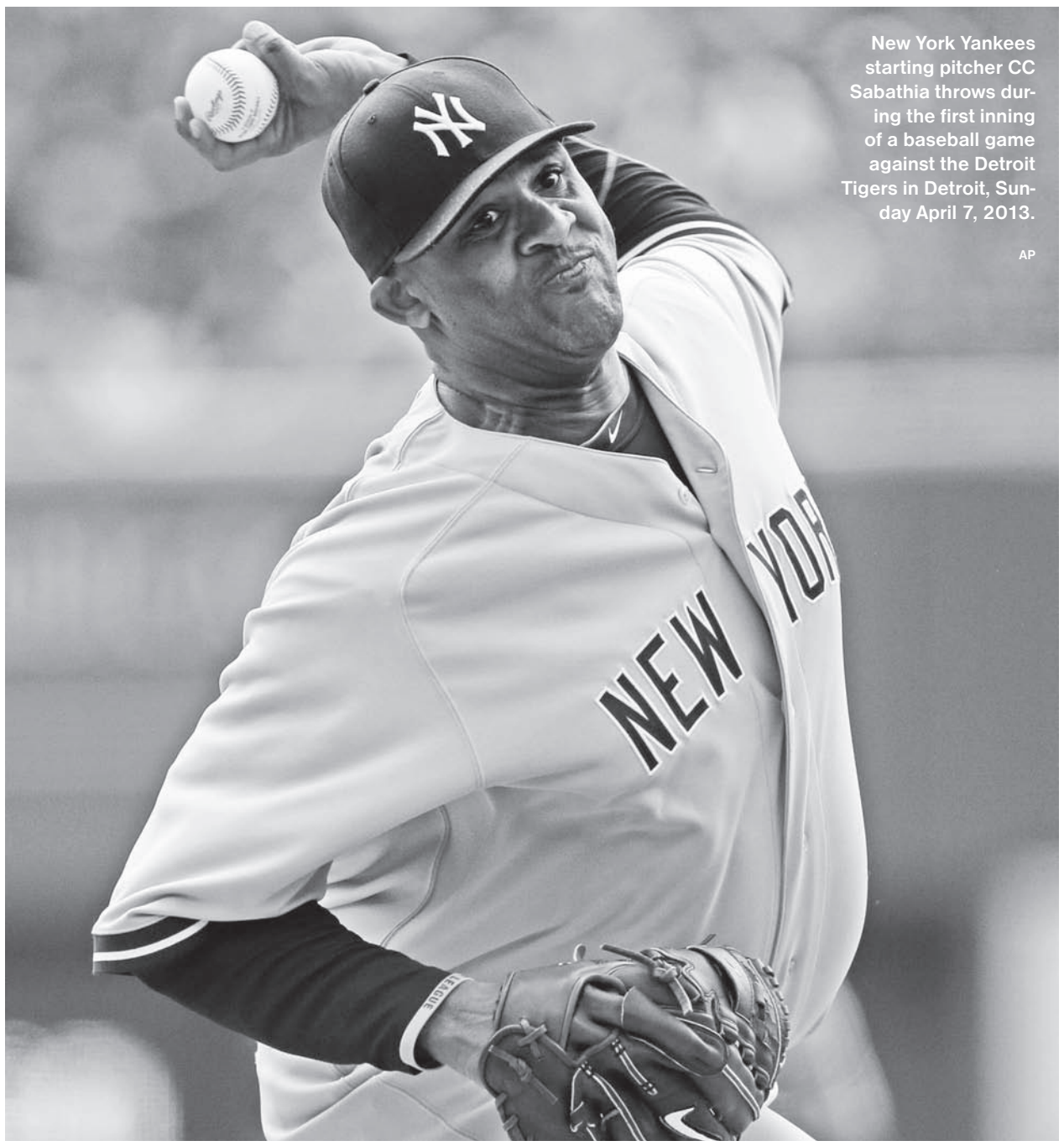
''Ryu did a good job today,'' Dodgers center fielder Matt Kemp said. ''The first inning was rough, but after that he shut them down. I told him that was all they were going to get today from him, and he did what we asked him to do. We scored some runs for him and got him the W. We know what our offense is capable of doing. And if we stay within ourselves, we'll be a very successful team.''

Reds 6, Nationals 3

In Cincinatti, Stephen Strasburg was ready for the challenge of facing Johnny Cueto. He wasn't expecting to finish second, though.

Cueto outlasted Strasburg in a highly anticipated matchup of young aces and Jay Bruce drove in three runs as the Cincinnati Reds wrapped up an impressive opening week homestand with a 6-3 win over the Washington Nationals on Sunday.

"I think I learned a lot out there," Strasburg said. ''You want to be in that situation and go deep in the ballgame.''



New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Detroit, Sunday April 7, 2013.

AP

Pacquiao vs Mayweather fight not as unlikely as some insist

Given how many times Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. got fans' hopes up regarding a potential super fight only to disappoint, you certainly can't fault folks for being wary of more speculation. That being said, the idea of these two squaring off isn't as ludicrous as Mayweather made it sound during his appearance on CBS this past Saturday.

At halftime of this weekend's Louisville-Wichita State game, Mayweather appeared with Kenny Smith, Charles Barkley and the rest of the crew to discuss all things basketball and boxing. He briefly touted Robert Guerrero as a legitimate foe, he talked a little hoops (although, interestingly, he refused to make a Michigan-Syracuse prediction) and he praised the network's executives for giving him his massive new television deal with Showtime.

At one point, Doug Gottlieb asked Mayweather if he was ever going to fight Pacquiao.

"Manny Pacquiao got a lot of hurdles to get over to get to Floyd Mayweather," Mayweather replied. "He just got two back-to-back losses. I tried to make the fight to happen.

He then offered his trademark excuse for why this bout never came together: "The only thing I was asking for was random blood and urine testing just to show the world the sport of boxing is a clean sport."

Putting aside the drug issue, because that was resolved a long time ago, let's go back to all of those hurdles Mayweather mentioned. In reality, Pacquiao has one hurdle to get over: Juan Manuel Marquez. So long as he can avenge last December's loss, the former eight division champ will be right back where he was prior to that Timothy Bradley defeat that nobody really considers a defeat. He will once again be one of boxing's big name stars, and he will still command the sort of money that is only rivaled by Mayweather himself.

Now, here is why Mayweather-Pacquiao will likely happen at some point if the latter manages to get past Marquez: Mayweather needs opponents. As part of his Showtime deal, the undefeated superstar is basically required to fight twice per year for the foreseeable future. Once he's done with Guerrero, Mayweather's options will be: Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez/Austin Trout, Devon Alexander and maybe Amir Khan if he gets past Julio Diaz and avenges the Danny Garcia loss shortly thereafter. That's three foes, at best – each of whom are noticeably younger than Mayweather.

Pacquiao, 34, presents Mayweather with the ideal opportunity to fill one of his many upcoming fight dates with someone whose name recognition is similar to his own, and who doesn't pose as big a risk as some of the other alternatives. Remember: if Mayweather loses even once, his appeal decreases substantially. It is far more advantageous for him to stack easier fights one on top of the other in the early part of the Showtime contract, and then to do his legacy fights against Canelo-types later on when it will have less of an impact on his bottom line.

A Mayweather-Pacquiao showdown is not unlikely, it simply hinges on the Filipino star beating Marquez this year. If he can't do that, though, then this entire discussion is moot.

LEINA

From Page 28

Maglia—logged 191 for the Thunderwolvesí 644 two-day total. The host team won by 48 strokes against Regis University (692) and the margin was the biggest in the school's history, according to the Thunderwolves' website.

Besides beating Regis University, the Kim-led Thunderwolves also prevailed over Colorado Mesa University (700), Nebraska-Kearney University (713), Adams State University (715), Chadron State College (72), Colorado Christian University (765), Fort Lewis (780), and South Dakota (817).

The victory at the Southwest Motors Lady ThunderWolf Invitational was a morale boosting one for Kim after she missed her first collegiate career win just last month in Texas. The CSU-Pueblo rookie competed in the Midwestern State Invitational in Wichita Falls on March 17 and 18 and recorded a 2-over-par 146 to tie Oklahoma Christian's Anna Arrese Cortade for first place. The battle for the top spot remained tied after the first playoff hole, as both Kim and Cortade made pars, however the former eventually lost in the tiebreak after hitting a bogey in the second playoff hole.

From Wichita Falls, Kim moved to Litchfield Park in Arizona and joined the Grand Canyon Invitational to continue her search for the elusive first win. In the Grand Canyon event (April 1 and 2), Kim had a rough start, as her 7-over-par 79 was good enough for only a tie for 17th place. She redeemed herself in the second and final round with a 3-over-par to climb to No.4 for her second straight Top 5 finish.

Three days after her fourth-place finish in Litchfield Park, Kim returned to action and while most of the players struggled at the extremely fast greens of the Pueblo Country Club, the Thunderwolves rookie tamed the par-72 course. She was one of the only three players to score in the 70s in the first round and she played even better in the final round to finally bag her first career win in the collegiate division. In the final round, Kim was only one of the two players to post 70s with the other one, Regis University's Nicole Hulbert, still four strokes behind.

Two more events await Kim's rookie season with the Thunderwolves. She will be competing in the Colorado Mesa Invitational on April 15 and 16 at the Grand Junction in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Championship on April 22 and 23 in Phoenix Arizona. Kim and company are hoping to gain big wins in the last two tournaments to earn a slot to the NCAA Division 2 West Super Regional that will be held on May 5 at the Tiara Rado Golf Course in Grand Junction.

SCHORR

From Page 28

the opening set and never looked back, as he was steady with his service game and also gained points on some tricky drop shots, while Kim struggled at the service area and often hit wide shots. Kim and Schorr arranged the battle of unseeded players for the U12 championship after pulling off an upset over their respective ranked foes.

Schorr eliminated the No. 1 seeded Vincent Tudela with a 6-1, 6-2 victory in the semifinals of the top half of the draw last Sunday morning. It was sweet revenge for Schorr, as it was Tudela who ousted him in the semis of the White Coconut Classic in February this year and foiled the former's bid for back-to-back title wins. Before getting even with Tudela, Schorr slipped past two other foes to march into the semifinals. He shut out Rintaro Miyawaki last Friday, 6-0, 6-0, and then downed Ken Song last Saturday, 6-1 6-4. Tudela drew a bye last Friday before defeating Kevin Kim last Saturday, 6-1, 6-1, to make it to the semis of the top half of the draw against Schorr.

In the lower half semis, Tony Kim also stunned a ranked opponent in the No. 2 seed Joshua Abragan. Tony Kim dropped the first set of their Sunday morning match, 4-6, but stole the win after sweeping the last two sets, 6-2, 7-5. Tony Kim, who topped Haruya Eda in the first round last Friday, 6-2, 6-3, also came from a tough 6-1, 6-7, 6-3 triumph over Michael Jones in the quarterfinals last Saturday to advance to the semis. Abragan had an easier quarterfinals match, sweeping Aditya Rai last Saturday, 6-1, 6-1.

Meanwhile, the two other boys junior singles title matches were decided in contrasting fashions.

In the boys U18 finals, Rafael Jones needed three sets to take the championship. Jones, who barged into the finals after making short work of Seiya Eda last Saturday, 6-3, 6-2, survived Amami Sakano in the finals, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4. The Sunday finale was Sakano's second straight three-set match, as his semis game over Tommy Choi last Saturday also went to the distance with the former winning, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

In the boys U15 division, Moris Villanueva clinched the crown after only two sets, as he defeated Dylan Ackerman, 6-2, 6-2. Ackerman dropped the finals and missed his second straight U15 title after an epic semis win over Colin Ramsey last Saturday. The Ackerman-Ramsey Final Four showdown lasted for more than three hours with the former surviving the grueling match, 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 7-6 (12-10).

Villanueva cruised past Luther Lizama in the other semis pairing last Saturday evening, 6-2, 6-2. Lizama marched into the semis after beating Yun Seok Jun last Saturday morning, 6-2, 6-0, while Ramsey also nailed a two-set win over Try Young, 6-2, 6-4, to set up a classic semis duel versus Ackerman.

Meanwhile, the adults' doubles matches were also completed over the weekend and results will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*, along with the schedule for the final week of the tournament.

PIC-Saipan, PTC (Gatorade and Monster), Thai Spa, and Hollywood Theaters support this year's PIC tennis competition.

SCA

From Page 28

anas Country Club course, one million gallon tank, Radar, Kalabera, Bird Island Lookout, up to the paved road to Kimikaze and down, Autobahn Trail, Santa Clause Lane, and Banzai Trail before turning to Mariana Resort. The MTB sport will have the same course, however, bikers will not go to Kimikaze and Autobahn Trail.

For the road bike course, female bikers will do two laps of the race from Mariana Resort to Mobil Tanapag and Banzai Cliff and back, while male bikers must complete three laps of the same route.

Prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 finishers in the men's and women's and in the 45-and-below and 46-and-above age groups of the road bike contest. The same categories will be used in the MTB championship division, while only the Top 3 in the men's and women's divisions will be recognized in the MTB sport event. A brand new bike will also be raffled off after the race with tickets available for only $1 each.

Entry fee is only $20, including a brunch certificate at Mariana Resort. Registration is from 5:30am to 6:45am, while the race starts at 7am. ***(RBM)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
x-New York	50	26	.658	_
x-Brooklyn	44	32	.579	6
x-Boston	40	37	.519	10 1/2
Philadelphia	31	45	.408	19
Toronto	29	48	.377	21 1/2

Southeast Division				
z-Miami	60	16	.789	_
x-Atlanta	42	36	.538	19
Washington	29	48	.377	31 1/2
Orlando	19	59	.244	42
Charlotte	18	59	.234	42 1/2

Central Division				
y-Indiana	48	29	.623	_
x-Chicago	42	34	.553	5 1/2
x-Milwaukee	37	39	.487	10 1/2
Detroit	26	52	.333	22 1/2
Cleveland	24	52	.316	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
x-San Antonio	57	20	.740	_
x-Memphis	52	25	.675	5
Houston	43	34	.558	14
Dallas	38	39	.494	19
New Orleans	27	50	.351	30

Northwest Division				
x-Oklahoma City	56	21	.727	
x-Denver	53	24	.688	3
Utah	41	37	.526	15 1/2
Portland	33	44	.429	23
Minnesota	29	47	.382	26 1/2

Pacific Division				
y-L.A. Clippers	51	26	.662	_
Golden State	44	33	.571	7
L.A. Lakers	40	37	.519	11
Sacramento	27	50	.351	24
Phoenix	23	54	.299	28

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

BACK

From Page 28

for MP United, while siblings Rachel and Michelle Masda added one apiece. Michelle broke into the scoreboard first with her goal in the eighth minute. MP United's three other goals were also logged in the opening half with Ito gaining her first in the 21st, Rachel connecting in the 30th, and Ito scoring anew seven minutes later.

Paire 1, MP United 0

In the lone make-up game on April 1, Paire handed MP United its second loss of the season.

Meghan Bragg canned the only goal in the match, lighting up the scoreboard in the 25th minute. With the win, Paire now a 3-0-2 slate, gaining its second straight win, as it also prevailed over Tan Holdings, 3-0, before the league took a week-long break to give way to the Lenten season.

Shirley's 10, Matansa 0

Shirley's FC remained the lone undefeated squad (5-0-0) in the six-team league after pounding Matansa in another make-up match on April 2.

Shirley's swept the first round of the competition after drawing two goals apiece from three different players—Negahr Rastguiy, Diane Pablo, and Irish Pagarao. Marielle and Elaine Gariguez, Mikky Vargas, and Jeraldine Castillo chipped in one goal each for the streaking Shirley's FC.

It took a while before Shirley's offense heated up last week, but when it did, the goals came in streaks. Castillo started the spree with her goal in the 23rd, while Marielle Gariguez nailed the second goal in the 35th.

Pagarao made it three in a row four minutes later, while Pablo gave Shirley's a 4-0 lead, five minutes before the first half ended. The Shirley's show continued in the second half with Rastguiy leading the charge with her goals in the 62nd and 89th.

2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Basketball League A Division Finals

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SSFM's Erick Dela Rosa goes up for a shot against Docomo defenders during their Division A title game in the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

SSFM's Jack Lizama makes a layup against three Docomo players.

Docomo's Sheen Metran pulls up for a hurried shot.

Docomo's Art Montes tries to kick the ball out to his teammates, as SSFM's Jack Lizama shuts the door on him.

SSFM's Jun Pantaleon tries to elude Docomo's Marlon Sison, right, while Elgene Mangali helps on defense.

SSFM's Don Brennan makes a layup against Docomo's Sheen Metran

SSFM's Erick Dela Rosa, left, and Docomo's Art Montes lose the ball as they battle for possession.

Docomo's Darwin Barbo goes up for a putback.

Docomo's Rodney Sacramento tries to start a fastbreak play.

Docomo and SSFM players battle for the rebound.

Clippers beat Lakers to win division title

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Sabathia shuts down Tigers in Yanks' second win

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Leina leads CSU-Pueblo to historic win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI junior golfer Leina Kim earned her first tournament victory in the collegiate ranks after topping the Southwest Motors Lady ThunderWolf Invitational and leading the Thunderwolves to a historic win last Sunday at the Pueblo Country Club, in Pueblo, Colorado.

Kim, who is on her first season with the Colorado State University-Pueblo, shot a 77 and 75 in the opening and final round of the weekend competition, respectively, to beat 43 other players, including teammate Dominique Dinallo, who finished way behind Kim at second place with a two-day total of 160 (78 and 82).

Kim's two other teammates—Michaela Breit and Julie Sanchez—also scored in the 160s (165 and 1167), while the fifth member of the squad—Katie

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JESSIE PAGSINOJIN

Leina Kim, seen here posing for TAGA *Sports*' cover photo shoot, recorded her first collegiate win last weekend in Colorado.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Robbie Schorr jumps up a return to Tony Kim during their boys U12 title game in the13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Schorr secures first U12 title for 2013

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The unseeded Robbie Schorr got his first U12 singles title this year and second for the season after ruling the 14-player draw in the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships held over the weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Schorr, who notched his first U12 singles crown in November last year during the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, but missed back-to-back crowns early this year after a semis loss in the White Coconut Classic, clinched the title in the PIC tournament this time after sweeping Tony Kim in last Sunday's finals, 6-1, 6-3.

Schorr raced to a 3-0 lead on

See SCHORR on Page 26

Back-to-back victories for Independents FC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Independents FC gained two consecutive wins at the resumption of action in the Women's M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

IFC nailed one of its two victories last Thursday against Tan Holdings FC, 3-0. Three different players scored for IFC in the make-up game that was originally set for March 30. Nola Hix broke the ice for IFC in the 24th minute, while Tara Allen made it a 2-0 lead for the team five minutes later. Sara Allen drilled the other goal in the second half.

After the shutout win against Tan Holdings, IFC returned to the Oleai pitch last Saturday and also blanked Matansa, 2-0. Again Tara and Sarah Allen scored for IFC, making one goal apiece in the second half. Sara ended the drought for IFC in the 62nd minute, while Sarah made the insurance goal six minutes later.

With its two straight wins, IFC improved to a 4-0-2 win-draw-loss record, while Tan Holdings fell to a 1-1-4 slate, as it also bowed to MP United last Saturday. Matansa remained winless, dropping its sixth matches in as many games.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matansa FC and Independents FC players collide as they go for the ball during the first half of their game in the Women's M-League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MP United 4, Tan Holdings 0

MP United improved to a 3-1-2 card after dominating Tan Holdings FC in the other game last Saturday.

Kyla Ito scored twin goals

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Youth biker Erico Castro heads to the Bird Island Lookout during last month's Tagaman Triathlon. Bikers will be back on the road this Sunday with the staging of the SCA MTB & Road Race 4.

SCA MTB & Road Race 4 Sunday

The Saipan Cyclers Association will be holding the SCA MTB & Road Race 4 this Sunday with the start and finish line set at the Mariana Resort.

The MTB division will have two courses: championship and sport. Participants in the MTB championship will have to go through Mobil Tanapag, FEBC, road back to the Mari-

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